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(54) Title: CYTOKINE DESIGNATED 4-1BB LIGAND AND HUMAN RECEPTOR THAT BINDS THERETO

(57) Abstract

Novel 4-1BB ligand (4-1BB-L) polypeptides and a human cell surface receptor designated 4-1BB that binds 4-1BB-L are provided. Isolated 4-1BB-L-encoding and human 4-1BB-encoding DNA sequences, recombinant expression vectors comprising the isolated DNA sequences, and host cells transformed with the recombinant expression vectors are disclosed, along with methods for producing the novel polypeptides by cultivating such transformed host cells. Soluble forms of the 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB polypeptides are derived from the extracellular domains thereof.

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TITLE

**CYTOKINE DESIGNATED 4-1BB LIGAND AND
HUMAN RECEPTOR THAT BINDS THERETO**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The term "cytokines" encompasses a diverse group of soluble proteins that are released by one type of cell and mediate a biological effect on another cell type. Biological activities exhibited by cytokines include control of proliferation, growth, and differentiation of various cell types, among which are cells of the hematopoietic or immune systems.

Examples of cytokines include the interleukins (e.g., interleukins 1 through 12), the interferons (IFN α , IFN β , and IFN γ), tumor necrosis factor (TNF α and TNF β), epidermal growth factor (EGF), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), and colony stimulating factors. Examples of colony stimulating factors (CSF), which control growth and differentiation of hematopoietic cells, are granulocyte-CSF (G-CSF), granulocyte-macrophage-CSF (GM-CSF), macrophage-CSF (M-CSF or CSF-1), mast cell growth factor (MGF), and erythropoietin (EPO).

The biological activity of cytokines generally is mediated by binding of the cytokine to a receptor specific for that cytokine, located on the surface of target cells. Much research has been directed to identifying receptor(s) that bind a given cytokine (often referred to as the "ligand" for the receptor in question), and exploring the roles that endogenous ligands and receptors play *in vivo*.

One family of cytokine receptors includes two different TNF receptors (Type I and Type II) (Smith et al., *Science* 248:1019, 1990) and Schall et al., *Cell* 61:361, 1990); nerve growth factor receptor (Johnson et al., *Cell* 47:545, 1986); B cell antigen CD40 (Stamenkovic et al., *EMBO J.* 8:1403, 1989); T cell antigen OX40 (Mallett et al., *EMBO J.* 9:1063, 1990); human Fas antigen (Itoh et al., *Cell* 66:233, 1991); and murine receptor 4-1BB (Kwon et al., *Cell. Immunol.* 121:414, 1989) [Kwon et al. I] and Kwon et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:1963, 1989 [Kwon et al. II]).

Expression of murine 4-1BB is induced by concanavalin A (con A) in spleen cells, cloned helper T cells, cytolytic T cells, and cytolytic T cell hybridomas (Kwon et al. II). Murine 4-1BB cDNA was isolated from a cDNA library made from induced RNA isolated from both a helper T cell line and a cytotoxic T cell line (Kwon et al. II). The nucleotide sequence of the isolated cDNA is presented in Kwon et al. II, along with the amino acid sequence encoded thereby. The murine 4-1BB protein comprises 256 amino acids, including a putative leader sequence, trans-membrane domain and a number of other

features common to cell membrane bound receptor proteins. Regarding a putative human 4-1BB protein, neither amino acid nor nucleotide sequence information is known for any such protein.

No ligand that would bind 4-1BB and transduce a signal through the 4-1BB receptor is known. Thus, there is a need in the art to determine whether a novel protein functioning as a ligand for 4-1BB exists, and, if so, to isolate and characterize the 4-1BB ligand protein.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 A novel cytokine designated 4-1BB ligand (4-1BB-L) is disclosed herein. 4-1BB-L polypeptides bind to the cell surface receptor designated 4-1BB. Human 4-1BB is also provided by the present invention.

15 The present invention provides purified 4-1BB-L polypeptides, exemplified by the murine and human 4-1BB-L proteins disclosed herein, and purified human 4-1BB polypeptides. Isolated DNA sequences encoding 4-1BB-L or human 4-1BB, recombinant expression vectors comprising the isolated DNA, and host cells transformed with the expression vectors are provided by the present invention, along with methods for producing 4-1BB-L and human 4-1BB by cultivating the transformed host cells.

20 Antibodies that are immunoreactive with 4-1BB-L or human 4-1BB also are provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 presents the results of a competition binding assay that demonstrated binding of a murine 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein by a soluble murine 4-1BB-L protein produced in CV-1 (mammalian) cells. The 4-1BB-L protein was produced as described in example 7.

25 Figure 2 presents the results of the control experiment described in example 7.

Figure 3 presents the results of a competition binding assay that demonstrated binding of a murine 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein by a soluble murine 4-1BB-L protein produced in yeast cells. The 4-1BB-L protein was produced as described in example 8.

30 Figure 4 presents the results of an assay described in example 13, in which cells expressing recombinant human 4-1BB-L were demonstrated to costimulate T-cell proliferation. Purified T cells were cultured with a titration of fixed CV-1/EBNA cells that were transfected with either empty vector (open circles) or vector containing hu4-1BB-L DNA (closed circles) in the presence of suboptimal PHA (0.1%). After 3 days, cultures 35 were pulsed with [³H] thymidine and incorporated radioactivity was assessed 6 hours later. Data are representative of four experiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- The present invention provides a human cell surface receptor designated 4-1BB. Human 4-1BB is a member of the TNF receptor super-family, and is expressed on cells 5 that include but are not limited to stimulated human peripheral blood lymphocytes. Expression of murine 4-1BB on cell types that include helper, suppressor and cytolytic T lymphocytes has been reported (Kwon et al. I and II), and 4-1BB has also been detected on mouse brain tissue.
- A novel cytokine designated 4-1BB ligand (4-1BB-L) is also provided herein.
- 10 4-1BB-L polypeptides bind to the cell surface receptor designated 4-1BB. Expression of 4-1BB-L has been detected on stimulated T cells (e.g., the alloreactive CD4⁺ human T cell clone stimulated with anti-CD3 antibodies described in example 5), a subclone of a mouse thymoma cell line, mouse brain tissue, and (by RNA analysis) on mouse bone marrow, splenic, and thymic tissues.
- 15 Purified 4-1BB-L polypeptides, exemplified by the murine and human 4-1BB-L proteins disclosed herein, and purified human 4-1BB polypeptides are encompassed by the present invention. Isolated DNA sequences encoding 4-1BB-L or human 4-1BB, recombinant expression vectors comprising the isolated DNA, and host cells transformed 20 with the expression vectors are provided by the present invention, along with methods for producing 4-1BB-L and human 4-1BB by cultivating the transformed host cells and purifying the recombinant protein. Antibodies that are immunoreactive with 4-1BB-L or human 4-1BB are also disclosed.
- The present invention provides full length 4-1BB-L and 4-1BB polypeptides as well as biologically active fragments and variants thereof. Soluble polypeptides comprising 25 the extracellular domain of 4-1BB-L or a receptor-binding fragment thereof are among the biologically active fragments provided. Likewise, soluble polypeptides derived from the extracellular domain of human 4-1BB that are capable of binding the 4-1BB ligand are encompassed by the present invention. Such soluble polypeptides are described in more detail below.
- 30 4-1BB-L refers to a genus of mammalian polypeptides that are capable of binding 4-1BB. 4-1BB-L is a type II extracellular membrane polypeptide with an intracellular (cytoplasmic) domain at the N-terminus of the polypeptide, followed by a transmembrane region, and an extracellular (receptor-binding) domain at the C-terminus of the polypeptide. Soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptides may be derived from the extracellular domain, as described 35 below. While not wishing to be bound by theory, binding of the 4-1BB ligand to 4-1BB may initiate transduction of a biological signal in a cell bearing the receptor.

cDNA encoding murine 4-1BB-L was isolated using a direct expression cloning technique, as described in example 4. Briefly, a fusion protein comprising a fragment of the murine 4-1BB extracellular (ligand-binding) domain fused to the Fc domain of a human IgG1 antibody was prepared and used to screen an expression cloning cDNA library
5 derived from a subclone of a mouse thymoma cell line. A clone expressing a protein that bound the 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein was identified, sequenced and determined to encode a novel protein, which is a ligand for 4-1BB. The nucleotide sequence of the murine 4-1BB-L cDNA isolated by this procedure and the amino acid sequence encoded thereby are presented in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2. This murine 4-1BB-L protein comprises
10 a cytoplasmic domain (amino acids 1-82 of SEQ ID NO:2), a transmembrane region (amino acids 83-103), and an extracellular domain (amino acids 104-309).

A direct expression cloning technique also was used to isolate cDNA encoding a human 4-1BB-L, as described in example 5. Briefly, an expression cloning cDNA library derived from an alloreactive CD4⁺ human T cell clone stimulated with an anti-CD3
15 antibody was screened with a fusion protein comprising a soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide fused to an Fc polypeptide. The nucleotide sequence of a human 4-1BB-L cDNA isolated by this procedure and the amino acid sequence encoded thereby are presented in SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4. This human 4-1BB-L protein comprises a cytoplasmic domain (amino acids 1-25 of SEQ ID NO:4), a transmembrane region (amino acids 26-48), and an extracellular domain (amino acids 49-254).

The nucleotide sequence of a human 4-1BB cDNA (isolated as described in example 2) and the amino acid sequence encoded thereby are presented in SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8. The human 4-1BB protein comprises an N-terminal signal sequence (amino acids -23 to -1 of SEQ ID NO:8), an extracellular domain comprising amino acids
25 1-163, a transmembrane region comprising amino acids 164-190, and a cytoplasmic domain comprising amino acids 191-232. The human 4-1BB amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 is 60% identical to that of the murine 4-1BB receptor described in Kwon et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:1963, 1989).

Also encompassed by the present invention are isolated DNA sequences that are degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, or 7 (and thus encode the amino acid sequence presented in SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, or 8). The 4-1BB-L nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, or 7 are understood to include the sequences complementary thereto.

Purified human 4-1BB-L proteins characterized by the N-terminal amino acid sequence Met-Glu-Tyr-Ala-Ser-Asp-Ala-Ser-Leu-Asp-Pro-Glu- or (beginning with the first amino acid of the extracellular domain) Leu-Ala-Cys-Pro-Trp-Ala-Val-Ser-Gly-Ala-Arg-Ala-Ser- are provided herein. Purified murine 4-1BB-L proteins characterized by an

N-terminal amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of Met-Asp-Gln-His-Thr-Leu-Asp-Val-Glu-Asp-Thr-Ala-, or (beginning with one of the first three amino acids of the extracellular domain) Arg-Thr-Glu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Ala-Leu-Thr-Ile-Thr-Thr-, Thr-Glu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Ala-Leu-Thr-Ile-Thr-Thr-, and Glu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Ala-Leu-Thr-Ile-Thr-Thr-
5 Thr- are also disclosed herein.

Soluble Proteins and Multimeric Forms of the Inventive Proteins

Soluble forms of the 4-1BB-L and 4-1BB proteins are provided herein. Soluble 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB polypeptides comprise all or part of the extracellular domain but lack
10 the transmembrane region that would cause retention of the polypeptide on a cell membrane. The soluble polypeptides that may be employed retain the ability to bind 4-1BB. The soluble 4-1BB polypeptides that may be employed retain the ability to bind the 4-1BB ligand. The soluble proteins may include part of the transmembrane region or part
15 of the cytoplasmic domain, provided that the protein is capable of being secreted rather than retained on the cell surface.

Since the 4-1BB-L protein lacks a signal peptide, a heterologous signal peptide advantageously is fused to the N-terminus of soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptides to promote secretion thereof. The signal peptide is cleaved from the protein upon secretion from the host cell. The need to lyse the cells and recover the recombinant soluble protein from the
20 cytoplasm thus is avoided. The native signal peptide or a heterologous signal peptide (such as one of the heterologous signal peptides described below, chosen according to the intended expression system) advantageously is fused to a soluble 4-1BB polypeptide.

Soluble proteins of the present invention may be identified (and distinguished from their non-soluble membrane-bound counterparts) by separating intact cells expressing the
25 desired protein from the culture medium, e.g., by centrifugation, and assaying the medium (supernatant) for the presence of the desired protein. The culture medium may be assayed using procedures which are similar or identical to those described in the examples below.

Soluble forms of the 4-1BB-L and 4-1BB proteins are advantageous for certain applications, e.g., when the protein is to be administered intravenously for certain
30 therapeutic purposes. Also, purification of the proteins from recombinant host cells is facilitated, since the soluble proteins are secreted from the cells. In one embodiment of the invention, a soluble fusion protein comprises a first polypeptide derived from the extracellular domain of 4-1BB or 4-1BB-L fused to a second polypeptide added for purposes such as facilitating purification or effecting dimer formation. Suitable second polypeptides do not inhibit secretion of the soluble fusion protein.

Examples of soluble polypeptides include those comprising the entire extracellular domain. Representative examples of the soluble proteins of the present invention include,

but are not limited to, a polypeptide comprising amino acids x-309 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein x is selected from 104, 105, and 106 (murine 4-1BB-L); amino acids 49-254 of SEQ ID NO:4 (human 4-1BB-L); or amino acids 1-163 of SEQ ID NO:8 (human 4-1BB). Preparation of certain soluble polypeptides of the present invention is described in the
5 examples section.

Truncated forms of the inventive proteins, including soluble polypeptides, may be prepared by any of a number of conventional techniques. In the case of recombinant proteins, a DNA fragment encoding a desired fragment may be subcloned into an expression vector. Alternatively, a desired DNA sequence may be chemically synthesized
10 using known techniques. DNA fragments also may be produced by restriction endonuclease digestion of a full length cloned DNA sequence, and isolated by electrophoresis on agarose gels. Linkers containing restriction endonuclease cleavage site(s) may be employed to insert the desired DNA fragment into an expression vector, or the fragment may be digested at cleavage sites naturally present therein. The well known
15 polymerase chain reaction procedure also may be employed to isolate a DNA sequence encoding a desired protein fragment by using oligonucleotide primers comprising sequences that define the termini of the desired fragment.

In another approach, enzymatic treatment (e.g., using Bal 31 exonuclease) may be employed to delete terminal nucleotides from a DNA fragment to obtain a fragment having a
20 particular desired terminus. Among the commercially available linkers are those that can be ligated to the blunt ends produced by Bal 31 digestion, and which contain restriction endonuclease cleavage site(s). Alternatively, oligonucleotides that reconstruct the N- or C-terminus of a DNA fragment to a desired point may be synthesized. The oligonucleotide may contain a restriction endonuclease cleavage site upstream of the desired coding
25 sequence and position an initiation codon (ATG) at the N-terminus of the coding sequence. present therein. The well known polymerase chain reaction procedure also may be employed to isolate a DNA sequence encoding a desired protein fragment by using oligonucleotide primers comprising sequences that define the termini of the desired fragment.

30 Naturally occurring soluble forms of 4-1BB-L or human 4-1BB are also encompassed by the present invention. Such soluble polypeptides may result from alternative splicing of mRNA during expression, or release of a soluble polypeptide from a membrane-bound form of the protein by proteolysis.

Oligomeric (multimeric) forms of the inventive proteins are encompassed by the
35 present invention. The terms "inventive proteins" and "inventive polypeptides" as used herein refer collectively to the 4-1BB-L and 4-1BB proteins or polypeptides of the present invention, as defined by the appended claims. The oligomers preferably are dimers or

trimers. Dimeric and trimeric forms of the 4-1BB-L and 4-1BB proteins may exhibit enhanced biological activity compared to the monomeric forms. Separate polypeptide chains may be joined by interchain disulfide bonds formed between cysteine residues to form oligomers. Alternatively, the multimers may be expressed as fusion proteins, with or 5 without spacer amino acids between the inventive protein moieties, using recombinant DNA techniques. In one embodiment of the present invention, two or three soluble 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB polypeptides are joined via a polypeptide linker (e.g., one of the antibody-derived or peptide linkers described below).

10 In one embodiment of the present invention, a soluble fusion protein comprises a soluble 4-1BB or 4-1BB-L polypeptide fused to a polypeptide derived from the constant region of an antibody. Multimers resulting from formation of interchain disulfide bonds between the antibody-derived moieties of such fusion proteins are provided.

15 Examples of such fusion proteins are those comprising one of the above-described soluble 4-1BB or 4-1BB-L polypeptides fused to an antibody Fc region polypeptide. A gene fusion encoding the fusion protein is inserted into an appropriate expression vector and cells transformed with the expression vector are cultured to produce and secrete the fusion protein. The expressed fusion proteins are allowed to assemble much like antibody molecules, whereupon interchain disulfide bonds form between Fc polypeptides, yielding the Fc/4-1BB-L or 4-1BB/Fc protein in dimeric form. The preparation of certain 20 embodiments of such fusion proteins and dimers formed therefrom is described in more detail in the examples section below. If two different fusion proteins are made, one comprising an inventive protein fused to the heavy chain of an antibody and the other comprising an inventive protein fused to the light chain of an antibody, it is possible to form oligomers comprising as many as four soluble inventive polypeptides.

25 Preparation of fusion proteins comprising heterologous polypeptides fused to various portions of antibody-derived polypeptides (including the Fc domain) has been described, e.g., by Ashkenazi et al. (*PNAS USA* 88:10535, 1991) and Byrn et al. (*Nature* 344:677, 1990). The term "Fc polypeptide" includes native and mutein forms, as well as truncated Fc polypeptides containing the hinge region that promotes dimerization. One 30 example is an Fc region encoded by cDNA obtained by PCR as described by Fanslow et al., *J. Immunol.* 149:65 (1992). One example of a DNA encoding a mutein of the Fc region of a human IgG1 antibody is described in U.S. patent application serial no. 08/097,827, entitled "Novel Cytokine Which is a Ligand for OX40" filed July 23, 1993, which application is hereby incorporated by reference. The mutein DNA was derived from 35 a native Fc polypeptide-encoding DNA by site-directed mutagenesis conducted essentially as described by Deng and Nickoloff, *Anal. Biochem.* 200:81 (1992). The amino acid sequence of the Fc mutein polypeptide is identical to that of the native Fc polypeptide.

presented in SEQ ID NO:15 except that amino acid 32 of SEQ ID NO:15 has been changed from Leu to Ala, amino acid 33 has been changed from Leu to Glu, and amino acid 35 has been changed from Gly to Ala. This mutein Fc exhibits reduced affinity for immunoglobulin receptors.

- 5 Alternatively, one can link multiple copies of the inventive proteins *via* peptide linkers. A fusion protein comprising two or more copies of the inventive protein, separated by peptide linkers, may be produced by recombinant DNA technology. Among the peptide linkers that may be employed are amino acid chains that are from 5 to 100 amino acids in length, preferably comprising amino acids selected from the group
10 consisting of glycine, asparagine, serine, threonine, and alanine. In one embodiment of the present invention, a fusion protein comprises two or three soluble 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB polypeptides linked *via* a peptide linker selected from Gly₄SerGly₅Ser and (Gly₄Ser)_n, wherein n is 4-12. The production of recombinant fusion proteins comprising peptide linkers is illustrated in United States Patent 5,073,627, for example.
15 The 4-1BB-L proteins of the present invention are believed to be capable of dimerization without having one of the above-described antibody-derived polypeptides fused to the ligand. Both soluble and full length recombinant 4-1BB-L proteins have been precipitated with 4-1BB/Fc (reductive immunoprecipitation) followed by purification by affinity chromatography on a column containing protein G. Dimers were detected by SDS-
20 PAGE (non-reducing gel). Higher oligomers may have formed as well. Thus, fusing polypeptides that promote dimerization (or formation of higher oligomers) to 4-1BB ligands may result in undesirable aggregate formation.

Variants and Derivatives

- 25 As used herein, the terms "4-1BB-L" and "human 4-1BB" include variants and derivatives that retain a desired biological activity of the native mammalian polypeptides. The variant sequences differ from a native nucleotide or amino acid sequence by one or a plurality of substitutions, deletions, or additions, but retain a desired biological activity such as the ability to bind 4-1BB (for variants of 4-1BB-L) or the ability to bind a 4-1BB-L
30 (for variants of 4-1BB, the receptor). Derivatives of the inventive proteins may comprise moieties such as the chemical moieties described below, attached to the inventive protein.

In one embodiment of the present invention, a variant sequence is substantially identical to a native sequence. The term "substantially identical" as used herein means that the amino acid or nucleotide sequence in question is at least 80% identical, preferably 90-
35 100% identical, to a reference (native) sequence. The degree of homology (percent identity) may be determined, for example, by comparing sequence information using the GAP computer program, version 6.0 described by Devereux et al. (*Nucl. Acids Res.*

12:387, 1984) and available from the University of Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group (UWGCG). The GAP program utilizes the alignment method of Needleman and Wunsch (*J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443, 1970), as revised by Smith and Waterman (*Adv. Appl. Math* 2:482, 1981). The preferred default parameters for the GAP program include: (1) a unary
5 comparison matrix (containing a value of 1 for identities and 0 for non-identities) for nucleotides, and the weighted comparison matrix of Gribskov and Burgess, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 14:6745, 1986, as described by Schwartz and Dayhoff, eds., *Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure*, National Biomedical Research Foundation, pp. 353-358, 1979;
(2) a penalty of 3.0 for each gap and an additional 0.10 penalty for each symbol in each
10 gap; and (3) no penalty for end gaps.

Alterations of the native amino acid sequence may be accomplished by any of a number of known techniques, e.g., by mutation of the native nucleotide sequences disclosed herein. Mutations can be introduced at particular loci by synthesizing oligonucleotides containing a mutant sequence, flanked by restriction sites enabling ligation
15 to fragments of the native sequence. Following ligation, the resulting reconstructed sequence encodes an analog having the desired amino acid insertion, substitution, or deletion. Alternatively, oligonucleotide-directed site-specific mutagenesis procedures such as those described by Walder et al. (*Gene* 42:133, 1986); Bauer et al. (*Gene* 37:73, 1985); Craik (*BioTechniques*, January 1985, 12-19); Smith et al. (*Genetic Engineering: Principles and Methods*, Plenum Press, 1981); and U.S. Patent Nos. 4,518,584 and 4,737,462, may
20 be employed.

Isolated DNA sequences that hybridize to the murine 4-1BB-L-encoding nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the human 4-1BB-L-encoding nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 under moderately stringent or severely stringent conditions are encompassed by
25 the present invention. Moderate stringency conditions refer to conditions described in, for example, Sambrook et al. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2 ed. Vol. 1, pp. 1.101-104, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, (1989). Conditions of moderate stringency, as defined by Sambrook et al., include prewashing in 5X SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mM EDTA (pH 8.0) and hybridization at about 55°C in 5 X SSC overnight. Conditions of severe stringency include higher temperatures of hybridization and washing. The skilled artisan recognizes that the temperature and wash solution salt concentration may be adjusted as necessary according to factors such as the length of the probe. One embodiment of the invention is directed to DNA sequences that will hybridize under severely stringent conditions to a DNA sequence comprising the coding region of a 4-1BB-L clone disclosed
30 herein. The severely stringent conditions include hybridization at 68°C followed by washing in 0.1X SSC/0.1% SDS at 63-68°C.
35

Among the hybridizing sequences encompassed by the present invention are those encoding a biologically active primate or murine 4-1BB-L polypeptides. Biologically active polypeptides encoded by DNA sequences that hybridize to the murine 4-1BB-L-encoding nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the human 4-1BB-L-encoding nucleotide sequence 5 of SEQ ID NO:3 under moderately stringent or severely stringent conditions are encompassed by the present invention.

In one embodiment of the present invention, a variant amino acid sequence comprises conservative amino acid substitution(s) but is otherwise identical to a native amino acid sequence. Conservative substitutions refer to replacement of a given amino acid 10 residue with a residue having similar physiochemical characteristics. Examples of conservative substitutions include substitution of one aliphatic residue for another, such as Ile, Val, Leu, or Ala for one another, or substitutions of one polar residue for another, such as between Lys and Arg; Glu and Asp; or Gln and Asn. Other such conservative substitutions, for example, substitutions of entire regions having similar hydrophobicity 15 characteristics, are well known.

The present invention further includes the inventive polypeptides with or without associated native-pattern glycosylation. The recombinant proteins when expressed in yeast or mammalian expression systems (e.g., COS-7 cells) may be similar or significantly different in molecular weight and glycosylation pattern than the corresponding native 20 proteins. Expression of mammalian 4-1BB-L polypeptides in bacterial expression systems such as *E. coli*, provides non-glycosylated molecules

Variant proteins comprising inactivated N-glycosylation sites are within the scope of the present invention. Such variants are expressed in a more homogeneous, reduced carbohydrate form. N-glycosylation sites in eukaryotic polypeptides are characterized by 25 an amino acid triplet Asn-X-Y, wherein X is any amino acid except Pro and Y is Ser or Thr. In this sequence, carbohydrate residues are covalently attached at the Asn side chain. Addition, substitution, or deletion of residue(s) so that the Asn-X-Y triplet is no longer present inactivates the site. In one embodiment, a conservative amino acid substitution replaces the Asn residue, with substitution of Asp, Gln, or Glu for Asn being preferred. 30 Known procedures for inactivating N-glycosylation sites in proteins include those described in U.S. Patent 5,071,972 and EP 276,846.

The murine 4-1BB-L of SEQ ID NO:2 comprises three N-glycosylation sites, at residues 139-141, 161-163, and 293-295. The human 4-1BB-L of SEQ ID NO:4 comprises no N-glycosylation sites. The human 4-1BB of SEQ ID NO:8 comprises two 35 such sites, at residues 115-117 and 126-128.

Naturally occurring variants such as those resulting from alternative mRNA splicing events or proteolytic cleavage are also within the scope of the present invention. Variations

attributable to proteolysis include, for example, differences in the N- or C-termini upon expression in different types of host cells, due to proteolytic removal of one or more terminal amino acids (which may occur intracellularly or during purification). In one embodiment of the present invention, the inventive proteins lack from one to five of the N- 5 or C-terminal amino acids of the sequences disclosed herein. In certain host cells, post-translational processing will remove the methionine residue encoded by an initiation codon, whereas the methionine residue will remain at the N-terminus of proteins produced in other host cells.

Additional variants may be prepared by deleting terminal or internal sequences not 10 needed for biological activity. For example, Cys residues can be deleted or replaced with other amino acids to prevent formation of incorrect intramolecular disulfide bridges upon renaturation.

Other variants are prepared by modifying KEX2 protease processing sites in the 15 inventive proteins to enhance expression in yeast cells in which KEX2 protease activity is present. The adjacent basic residue pairs that constitute KEX2 protease processing sites, and are to be inactivated by adding, substituting or deleting residue(s), are Arg-Arg, Arg-Lys, and Lys-Arg pairs. Lys-Lys pairs are considerably less susceptible to KEX2 cleavage, and conversion of Arg-Arg, Arg-Lys, and Lys-Arg pairs to a Lys-Lys doublet is a conservative and preferred alteration that essentially inactivates the KEX2 sites. EP 20 212,914 discloses the use of site-specific mutagenesis to inactivate KEX2 protease processing sites in a protein.

The inventive proteins may be modified by forming covalent or aggregative 25 conjugates with other chemical moieties, such as glycosyl groups, lipids, phosphate, acetyl groups and the like. Covalent derivatives are prepared by reaction of functional groups of the chemical moiety with functional groups on amino acid side chains or at the N-terminus or C-terminus of the inventive protein. Also provided herein are the inventive proteins comprising detectable labels, diagnostic or cytotoxic reagents attached thereto, including but not limited to radionuclides, colorimetric reagents, and the like.

Other derivatives within the scope of this invention include covalent or aggregative 30 conjugates of the inventive proteins or fragments thereof with other proteins or polypeptides, such as by synthesis in recombinant culture as N-terminal or C-terminal fusions. The inventive proteins can comprise polypeptides added to facilitate purification and identification (e.g., the antigenic identification peptides described in U.S. patent 5,011,912 and Hopp et al., *Bio/Technology* 6:1204, 1988; or a poly-His peptide). One 35 such peptide is the FLAG® peptide DYKDDDDK, which is a highly antigenic sequence that provides an epitope reversibly bound by a specific monoclonal antibody (e.g., the monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma designated 4E11 and deposited with the

American Type Culture Collection under accession no. HB 9259) to enable rapid assay and facilitate purification of the expressed recombinant polypeptide fused thereto.

Assays for Biological Activity

5 The 4-1BB-L and 4-1BB proteins of the present invention and variants and derivatives thereof may be tested for biological activity by any suitable assay procedure. The procedure will vary according to such factors as whether the protein to be tested is bound to a cell surface or is secreted into the culture supernatant. Proteins may be radiolabeled for use in the assays, e.g., using the commercially available IODO-GEN
10 reagent described in example 1.

Competitive binding assays can be performed using standard methodology. For example, a 4-1BB-L variant can be tested for the ability to compete with a radiolabeled 4-1BB-L protein for binding to cells that express 4-1BB on the cell surface. Likewise, a 4-1BB variant can be assayed for the ability to compete with a radiolabeled 4-1BB for
15 binding to cells expressing membrane-bound 4-1BB-L. Qualitative results can be obtained by competitive autoradiographic plate binding assays, or Scatchard plots may be utilized to generate quantitative results. Instead of intact cells, one could substitute a 4-1BB or 4-1BB-L protein bound to a solid phase such as a column chromatography matrix (e.g. a soluble 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein bound to a Protein A or Protein G column by interaction
20 with the Fc region of the fusion protein).

Intact cells employed in competition binding assays may be cells that naturally express 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB (e.g., cell types identified in the examples below). Alternatively, cells transfected with recombinant expression vectors such that the cells express 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB.
25 One assay technique useful for intact cells expressing a membrane-bound form of the protein in question is the phthalate oil separation method (Dower et al. *J. Immunol.* 132:751 (1984)), essentially as described by Park et al. (*J. Biol. Chem.* 261:4177 (1986)). Sodium azide (0.2%) can be included in a binding assay to inhibit internalization of 4-1BB-L by the cells. Cells expressing 4-1BB on their surface can be tested for
30 radiolabeled 4-1BB-L binding by a plate binding assay as described in Sims et al., *Science* 241:585 (1988).

Expression Systems

The present invention provides recombinant expression vectors for expression of
35 the proteins of the present invention and host cells transformed with the expression vectors. Any suitable expression system may be employed.

Recombinant expression vectors of the present invention comprise DNA encoding a 4-1BB-L polypeptide or a human 4-1BB polypeptide, operably linked to regulatory sequence(s) suitable for expression of said DNA sequence in a host cell. The 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB-encoding DNA may comprise cDNA, genomic DNA, chemically synthesized DNA,
5 DNA isolated by PCR, or combinations thereof. The regulatory sequences may be derived from sources that include, but are not limited to, mammalian, microbial, viral, or insect genes. Examples of regulatory sequences include promoters, operators, and enhancers, ribosomal binding sites, and appropriate sequences that control transcription and translation initiation and termination. Nucleotide sequences are operably linked when the regulatory
10 sequence functionally relates to the structural gene. For example, a promoter sequence is operably linked to a coding sequence (e.g. structural gene DNA) if the promoter controls the transcription of the structural gene.

Suitable host cells for expression of the inventive proteins include prokaryotes, yeast or higher eukaryotic cells, with mammalian cells being preferred. The recombinant
15 expression vectors are transfected into the host cells by conventional techniques. The transfected cells are cultivated under conditions suitable to effect expression of the desired recombinant protein, which is purified from the cells or culture medium, depending on the nature of the culture system and the expressed protein. As will be readily appreciated by the skilled artisan, cultivation conditions will vary according to factors that include the type
20 of host cell and particular expression vector employed. Cell-free in vitro translation systems could also be employed to produce the inventive proteins by translation of mRNA complementary to a nucleotide sequence disclosed herein.

Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use with bacterial, fungal, yeast, and mammalian cellular hosts are described, for example, in Pouwels et al. *Cloning
25 Vectors: A Laboratory Manual*, Elsevier, New York, (1985). Expression vectors generally comprise one or more phenotypic selectable markers (e.g., a gene encoding a protein that confers antibiotic resistance or that supplies an autotrophic requirement) and an origin of replication recognized by the intended host cell to ensure amplification within the host.

30 Certain prokaryotic expression vectors may be constructed by inserting a promoter and other desired regulatory sequences into a commercially available plasmid such as the cloning vector pBR322 (ATCC 37017). pBR322 contains genes for ampicillin and tetracycline resistance and thus provides simple means for identifying transformed cells. Promoters commonly employed in prokaryotic expression vectors include β -lactamase
35 (penicillinase), the lactose promoter system (Chang et al., *Nature* 275:615, 1978; and Goeddel et al., *Nature* 281:544, 1979), tryptophan (*trp*) promoter system (Goeddel et al., *Nucl. Acids Res.* 8:4057, 1980; and EP-A- 36,776) and tac promoter (Maniatis, *Molecular*

Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, p. 412, 1982). A particularly useful prokaryotic host cell expression system employs a phage λ P_L promoter and a cI857ts thermolabile repressor sequence. Plasmid vectors available from the American Type Culture Collection which incorporate derivatives of the λ P_L promoter 5 include plasmid pHUB2 (resident in *E. coli* strain JMB9 (ATCC 37092)) and pPLc28 (resident in *E. coli* RR1 (ATCC 53082)).

The inventive proteins may be expressed in yeast host cells, preferably from the *Saccharomyces* genus (e.g., *S. cerevisiae*). Other genera of yeast, such as *Pichia* or *Kluyveromyces*, may also be employed. Yeast vectors commonly contain an origin of 10 replication from a 2 μ yeast plasmid, an autonomously replicating sequence (ARS), a promoter region, sequences for polyadenylation, sequences for transcription termination, and a selectable marker. Suitable promoter sequences for yeast vectors include promoters for metallothionein, 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (Hitzeman et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 255:2073 15 (1980) or other glycolytic enzymes (Hess et al., *J. Adv. Enzyme Reg.* 7:149 (1968) and Holland et al., *Biochem.* 17:4900 (1978), such as enolase, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, hexokinase, pyruvate decarboxylase, phosphofructokinase, glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, 3-phosphoglycerate mutase, pyruvate kinase, triosephosphate isomerase, phosphoglucose isomerase, and glucokinase. The ADH2 promoter has been described by Russell et al. (*J. Biol. Chem.* 258:2674 (1982)) and Beier et al. (*Nature* 20 300:724 (1982)). Other suitable vectors and promoters for use in yeast expression are further described in Hitzeman, EPA-73,657. The vector may comprise a sequence encoding the yeast α -factor leader to direct secretion of a heterologous protein (an inventive protein) fused thereto. See Kurjan et al., *Cell* 30:933, 1982; and Bitter et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:5330, 1984.

25 Shuttle vectors replicable in more than one type of cell comprise multiple origins of replication and selective markers. For example, a shuttle vector that replicates in both yeast and *E. coli* and functions as an expression vector in yeast may comprise DNA sequences from pBR322 for selection and replication in *E. coli* (Amp^r gene and origin of replication) and yeast-derived sequences such as a glucose-repressible ADH2 promoter, an origin of 30 replication from a 2 μ yeast plasmid, and an α -factor leader sequence.

35 Yeast transformation protocols are known to those of skill in the art. One such protocol is described by Hinnen et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 75:1929 (1978). The Hinnen et al. protocol selects for Trp⁺ transformants in a selective medium, wherein the selective medium consists of 0.67% yeast nitrogen base, 0.5% casamino acids, 2% glucose, 10 μ g/ml adenine and 20 μ g/ml uracil.

Yeast host cells transformed by vectors containing ADH2 promoter sequence may be grown for inducing expression in a "rich" medium. An example of a rich medium is one

consisting of 1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, and 1% glucose supplemented with 80 µg/ml adenine and 80 µg/ml uracil. Derepression of the ADH2 promoter occurs when glucose is exhausted from the medium.

Mammalian or insect host cell culture systems could also be employed to express
5 the recombinant proteins of the present invention. Examples of suitable mammalian host cell lines include the COS-7 lines of monkey kidney cells (ATCC CRL 1651) (Gluzman et al., *Cell* 23:175 (1981)), L cells, C127 cells, 3T3 cells (ATCC CCL 163), Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, HeLa cells, CV-1 cells, CV-1/EBNA cells and BHK (ATCC CRL 10) cell lines. Suitable mammalian expression vectors generally include nontranscribed
10 elements such as an origin of replication, a promoter sequence, an enhancer linked to the structural gene, other 5' or 3' flanking nontranscribed sequences, such as ribosome binding sites, a polyadenylation site, splice donor and acceptor sites, and transcriptional termination sequences.

Transcriptional and translational control sequences in mammalian host cell
15 expression vectors may be provided by viral sources. For example, commonly used mammalian cell promoter sequences and enhancer sequences are derived from Polyoma, Adenovirus 2, Simian Virus 40 (SV40), and human cytomegalovirus. DNA sequences derived from the SV40 viral genome, for example, SV40 origin, early and late promoter, enhancer, splice, and polyadenylation sites may be used to provide the other genetic
20 elements required for expression of a structural gene sequence in a mammalian host cell. Viral early and late promoters are particularly useful because both are easily obtained from a viral genome as a fragment which may also contain a viral origin of replication (Fiers et al., *Nature* 273:113 (1978)). Smaller or larger SV40 fragments may also be used, provided the approximately 250 bp sequence extending from the *Hind* III site toward the *Bgl* I site
25 located in the SV40 viral origin of replication site is included.

Exemplary mammalian expression vectors can be constructed as disclosed by Okayama and Berg (*Mol. Cell. Biol.* 3:280 (1983)). A useful high expression vector, PMLSV N1/N4, described by Cosman et al., *Nature* 312:768 (1984) has been deposited as ATCC 39890. A vector designated pHAVEO is described by Dower et al., *J. Immunol.*
30 142:4314 (1989). Certain useful mammalian expression vectors are described in the examples section below.

The vectors additionally may contain a DNA sequence encoding a signal peptide (secretory leader) fused to the 5' end of a DNA sequence encoding one of the inventive polypeptides. The 4-1BB-L polypeptides lack a native signal sequence. Replacement of
35 the native human 4-1BB signal sequence with a heterologous signal sequence may be desirable to enhance expression levels in the particular host cells employed. Examples of heterologous signal peptides that may be employed are the human or murine interleukin-7

signal peptide described in U.S. patent 4,965,195; the interleukin-2 signal peptide described in Cosman et al. *Nature* 312:768, 1984; and the interleukin-4 signal peptide described in EP 367,566.

5 Purification of Recombinant Mammalian 4-1BB-L

The present invention provides substantially homogeneous 4-1BB-L and human 4-1BB proteins, which may be produced by recombinant expression systems or purified from naturally occurring cellular sources. The proteins are purified to substantial homogeneity, as indicated by a single protein band upon analysis by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE).

10 Recombinant 4-1BB or 4-1BB-L proteins may be produced as follows. Host cells are transformed with an expression vector containing DNA encoding an inventive polypeptide, wherein the DNA is operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for effecting expression of said inventive polypeptide in the particular host cells. The 15 transformed host cells are cultured under conditions that promote expression of the 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB polypeptide, which is then purified from the culture media or cell extracts. The purification procedure will vary according to such factors as the particular host cells employed and whether the expressed protein is secreted or membrane-bound, as the skilled artisan will readily appreciate.

20 Recombinant protein produced in bacterial culture is usually isolated by initial disruption of the host cells, centrifugation, extraction from cell pellets if the desired protein is in the form of an insoluble refractile body, or from the supernatant if a soluble polypeptide, followed by one or more concentration, salting-out, ion exchange or size exclusion chromatography steps. Finally, RP-HPLC can be employed for final purification 25 steps. Microbial cells can be disrupted by any convenient method, including freeze-thaw cycling, sonication, mechanical disruption, or use of cell lysing agents.

30 Recombinant polypeptides secreted from yeast cells can be purified by methods analogous to those disclosed by Urdal et al. (*J. Chromatog.* 296:171 (1984)). Urdal et al. describe two sequential, reversed-phase HPLC steps for purification of recombinant human IL-2 on a preparative HPLC column.

35 The purification procedure may involve affinity chromatography. A 4-1BB-L protein (or the extracellular domain thereof) may be attached to a solid support material by standard procedures for use in purifying a 4-1BB protein. Likewise, a 4-1BB protein (or the extracellular domain thereof) attached to a solid support material may be used in purifying a 4-1BB-L protein. In addition, 4-1BB-L/Fc or 4-1BB/Fc fusion proteins may be attached to Protein G- or Protein A-bearing chromatography columns via binding of the

Fc moiety to the Protein A or Protein G. Immunoaffinity columns comprising an antibody that binds the desired inventive protein (described in example 8) also may be employed.

In one purification procedure, a 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB polypeptide is concentrated using a commercially available protein concentration filter, for example, an Amicon or

- 5 Millipore Pellicon ultrafiltration unit. Following the concentration step, the concentrate can be applied to a purification matrix such as a gel filtration medium. Alternatively, an anion exchange resin can be employed, for example, a matrix or substrate having pendant diethylaminoethyl (DEAE) groups. The matrices can be acrylamide, agarose, dextran, cellulose or other types commonly employed in protein purification. Alternatively, a cation 10 exchange step can be employed. Suitable cation exchangers include various insoluble matrices comprising sulfopropyl or carboxymethyl groups. Sulfopropyl groups are preferred.

Finally, one or more reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) steps employing hydrophobic RP-HPLC media, (e.g., silica gel having pendant methyl or other aliphatic groups) can be employed to further purify 4-1BB-L. Some or all 15 of the foregoing purification steps, in various combinations, can also be employed to provide a substantially homogeneous recombinant protein.

20 Pharmaceutical Compositions Comprising the Inventive Polypeptides and
Uses of 4-1BB-L and 4-1BB DNA and Proteins

The 4-1BB and 4-1BB-L proteins of the present invention are expressed on cells that include certain types of T-lymphocytes, as discussed above and in the examples section. The inventive proteins thus are useful in exploring mechanisms of T-cell activation. Identifying novel proteins expressed on T-cells, such as the inventive proteins 25 disclosed herein, has important implications in furthering understanding of the regulation and function of the immune system.

Murine 4-1BB and 4-1BB-L also have been detected on brain tissue. Northern blot analysis revealed expression of human 4-1BB-L in brain, and human 4-1BB is expected to be expressed in the brain as well. The inventive proteins are useful reagents for studying 30 neural tissue, e.g., research into growth of neural cells and disorders of the brain.

The 4-1BB-L of the present invention also has been found to stimulate growth of CD3⁻ CD4⁻ CD8⁻ immature lymphocytes. Cells expressing a membrane-bound 4-1BB-L were cultivated with CD3⁻ CD4⁻ CD8⁻ immature lymphocytes, and growth of the lymphocytes was stimulated.

- 35 As described in example 13, cells expressing recombinant human 4-1BB-L induced a strong proliferative response in mitogen costimulated peripheral blood T-cells. In

contrast, the ligand enhanced cytolysis seen in costimulated long-term cultured T-cell clones.

Uses of 4-1BB-L that flow from this ligand's ability to co-stimulate T-cell proliferation include, but are not limited to, the following. 4-1BB-L finds use as a tissue culture reagent for the *in vitro* cultivation of primary T-cells, and during the derivation of clonal T-cell lines therefrom. The ligand also may be employed to stimulate proliferation of activated T-cells that are to be employed in therapeutic procedures. For example, T-cells may be removed from a cancer patient and cultivated in the presence of a tumor antigen *in vitro* by known procedures, to generate cytotoxic T-lymphocytes (CTLs) specific for the patient's tumor cells. The CTLs are then administered to the patient. To enhance proliferation of the CTLs in the *ex vivo* stage, 4-1BB-L may be added to the culture medium, either alone or in combination with other cytokines such as interleukin-2.

It has been suggested that elimination of peripheral T-cells by activation induced cytolysis may be an important mechanism of regulating unwanted or autoreactive T-cells (Owen-Schaub et al., *Cell. Immunol.* 140:197, 1992). 4-1BB-L enhanced cell death induced by mitogenic stimuli in a long-term cultured (chronically activated) T-cell clone. These data suggest that 4-1BB-L may play a role in this process by enhancing activation-induced cell death.

The 4-1BB-L of the present invention is useful as a research reagent in *in vitro* binding assays to detect cells expressing 4-1BB. For example, 4-1BB-L or a fragment thereof (e.g., the extracellular domain) can be labeled with a detectable moiety such as ¹²⁵I. Alternatively, another detectable moiety such as biotin, avidin, or an enzyme that can catalyze a colorometric or fluorometric reaction may be used. Cells to be tested for 4-1BB expression are contacted with the labeled 4-1BB-L then washed to remove unbound labeled 4-1BB-L. Cells that bound the labeled 4-1BB-L are detected *via* the detectable moiety. Likewise, the human 4-1BB of the present invention is useful as a research reagent in binding assays to detect cells expressing 4-1BB-L. Identifying additional cell types expressing 4-1BB or 4-1BB-L provides insight into cell types that may play a role in the activation and function of cells of the immune system, particularly T-cells.

The 4-1BB ligand proteins disclosed herein also may be employed to measure the biological activity of 4-1BB protein in terms of binding affinity for 4-1BB-L. To illustrate, 4-1BB-L may be employed in a binding affinity study to measure the biological activity of a 4-1BB protein that has been stored at different temperatures, or produced in different cell types. The biological activity of a 4-1BB protein thus can be ascertained before it is used in a research study, for example.

4-1BB-L proteins find use as reagents that may be employed by those conducting "quality assurance" studies, e.g., to monitor shelf life and stability of 4-1BB protein under

different conditions. 4-1BB ligands may be used in determining whether biological activity is retained after modification of a 4-1BB protein (e.g., chemical modification, truncation, mutation, etc.). The binding affinity of the modified 4-1BB protein for a 4-1BB-L is compared to that of an unmodified 4-1BB protein to detect any adverse impact of the
5 modifications on biological activity of 4-1BB.

A different use of a 4-1BB ligand is as a reagent in protein purification procedures. 4-1BB-L or Fc/4-1BB-L fusion proteins may be attached to a solid support material by conventional techniques and used to purify 4-1BB by affinity chromatography.

Likewise, human 4-1BB may be employed to measure the biological activity of
10 human 4-1BB-L polypeptides in terms of binding affinity. Human 4-1BB finds further use in purification of human 4-1BB-L by affinity chromatography.

The present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising an effective amount of a purified 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB polypeptide and a suitable diluent, excipient, or carrier. Such carriers will be nontoxic to patients at the dosages and
15 concentrations employed. Ordinarily, the preparation of such compositions entails combining a mammalian 4-1BB-L polypeptide or derivative thereof with buffers, antioxidants such as ascorbic acid, low molecular weight (less than about 10 residues) polypeptides, proteins, amino acids, carbohydrates including glucose, sucrose or dextrans, chelating agents such as EDTA, glutathione and other stabilizers and excipients. Neutral
20 buffered saline or saline mixed with conspecific serum albumin are exemplary appropriate diluents.

Such compositions may be used to stimulate the immune system in view of the inventive proteins' presence and effect on certain cells associated with the immune response. For therapeutic use, the compositions are administered in a manner and dosage
25 appropriate to the indication and the size and condition of the patient. Administration may be by injection, continuous infusion, sustained release from implants, or other suitable mode.

Nucleic Acid Fragments

30 The present invention further provides fragments of the 4-1BB-L and human 4-1BB nucleotide sequences presented herein. Such fragments desirably comprise at least about 14 nucleotides. DNA and RNA complements of said fragments are provided herein, along with both single-stranded and double-stranded forms of the DNA.

Among the uses of such nucleic acid fragments is use as a probe. Such probes may
35 be employed in cross-species hybridization procedures to isolate 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB DNA from additional mammalian species. As one example, a probe corresponding to the extracellular domain of 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB may be employed. The probes also find use in

detecting the presence of 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB nucleic acids in *in vitro* assays and in such procedures as Northern and Southern blots. Cell types expressing 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB can be identified. Such procedures are well known, and the skilled artisan can choose a probe of suitable length, depending on the particular intended application.

5 Other useful fragments of the 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB nucleic acids are antisense or sense molecules comprising a single-stranded nucleic acid sequence (either RNA or DNA) capable of binding to target 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB mRNA (sense) or DNA (antisense) sequences. In one embodiment, the antisense or sense molecule is a nucleotide sequence corresponding or complementary to the coding region of the 4-1BB or 4-1BB-L sequences
10 presented herein or a fragment thereof or the RNA complement thereof. Such oligonucleotides preferably comprise at least about 14 nucleotides, most preferably from about 17 to about 30 nucleotides. The ability to derive an antisense or a sense oligonucleotide based upon a cDNA sequence for a given protein is described in, for example, Stein and Cohen, *Cancer Res.* 48:2659, 1988 and van der Krol et al.,
15 *BioTechniques* 6:958, 1988.

Binding of antisense or sense oligonucleotides to target nucleic acid sequences results in the formation of duplexes that block translation (RNA) or transcription (DNA) by one of several means, including enhanced degradation of the duplexes, premature termination of transcription or translation, or by other means. The antisense
20 oligonucleotides thus may be used to block expression of 4-1BB-L proteins.

Antisense or sense oligonucleotides of the present invention further comprise oligonucleotides having modified sugar-phosphodiester backbones (or other sugar linkages, such as those described in WO91/06629) and wherein such sugar linkages are resistant to endogenous nucleases. Such oligonucleotides with resistant sugar linkages are
25 stable *in vivo* (i.e., capable of resisting enzymatic degradation) but retain sequence specificity to be able to bind to target nucleotide sequences. Other examples of sense or antisense oligonucleotides include those oligonucleotides which are covalently linked to organic moieties, such as those described in WO 90/10448, and other moieties that increases affinity of the oligonucleotide for a target nucleic acid sequence, such as poly-(L-
30 lysine). Further still, intercalating agents, such as ellipticine, and alkylating agents or metal complexes may be attached to sense or antisense oligonucleotides to modify binding specificities of the antisense or sense oligonucleotide for the target nucleotide sequence.

Antisense or sense oligonucleotides may be introduced into a cell containing the target nucleic acid sequence by any gene transfer method, including, for example, CaPO₄-mediated DNA transfection, electroporation, or other gene transfer vectors such as Epstein-Barr virus. Antisense or sense oligonucleotides are preferably introduced into a cell containing the target nucleic acid sequence by insertion of the antisense or sense

oligonucleotide into a suitable retroviral vector, then contacting the cell with the retrovirus vector containing the inserted sequence, either *in vivo* or *ex vivo*. Suitable retroviral vectors include, but are not limited to, vectors derived from the murine retrovirus M-MuLV, N2 (a retrovirus derived from M-MuLV), or the double copy vectors designated 5 DCT5A, DCT5B and DCT5C (see PCT Application US 90/02656).

Sense or antisense oligonucleotides may also be introduced into a cell containing the target nucleotide sequence by formation of a conjugate with a ligand binding molecule, as described in WO 91/04753. Suitable ligand binding molecules include, but are not limited to, cell surface receptors, growth factors, other cytokines, or other ligands that bind to cell 10 surface receptors. The ligand binding molecule should be conjugated in a manner that does not substantially interfere with the ability of the ligand binding molecule to bind to its corresponding molecule or receptor, or block entry of the sense or antisense oligonucleotide or its conjugated version into the cell.

Alternatively, a sense or an antisense oligonucleotide may be introduced into a cell 15 containing the target nucleic acid sequence by formation of an oligonucleotide-lipid complex, as described in WO 90/10448. The sense or antisense oligonucleotide-lipid complex is preferably dissociated within the cell by an endogenous lipase.

The following examples are for the purposes of illustrating certain embodiments of the invention, and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention as claimed 20 herein.

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of Murine 4-1BB/Fc Fusion Protein for Use in Screening Clones

This example illustrates construction of an expression vector encoding a fusion 25 protein comprising a soluble murine 4-1BB polypeptide fused to an Fc region polypeptide derived from a human IgG1 antibody. The fusion protein is used for detecting clones encoding a 4-1BB ligand. One advantage of employing an Fc-containing fusion protein is the facile purification made possible by the Fc moiety. Other polypeptides derived from an antibody Fc domain, and which bind with relatively high affinity to protein A- or protein 30 G-containing columns, may be substituted for the Fc polypeptide employed below.

DNA encoding a portion of the extracellular (ligand binding) domain of the murine 4-1BB receptor was isolated by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using primers based upon the sequence published in Kwon et al. II and presented herein as SEQ ID NOS:5 and 6. A BD14-20 alloreactive murine T-cell clone was induced with concanavalin A (Con A), 35 using standard techniques (Kwon et al. II). Total RNA was isolated from the induced cells by the guanadinium thiocyanate method (Mosley et al., *Cell* 59: 335 (1989)). cDNA was prepared by conventional techniques and used as the template in a conventional PCR

procedure (Sarki et al., *Science* 239:487, 1988). The 5' primer oligonucleotide sequence was:

GTCACTAGTTCTGTGCAGAACTCCTGTGATAAC (SEQ ID NO:9)

SEQ ID NO:9 comprises a *SpeI* site (double underline) and a signal cleavage site followed by a sequence (underlined) that corresponds to the nucleotides encoding the first seven amino acids of the mature murine 4-1BB protein. The 3' primer sequence was a 35-mer oligonucleotide comprising the sequence:

CACAAAGATCTGGGCTCCTCTGGAGTCACAGAAATG (SEQ ID NO:10)

The SEQ ID NO:10 oligonucleotide contains a *Bgl* 2 restriction site (double underline) and a sequence (underlined) that is complementary to nucleotides 510-528 of SEQ ID NO:5.

The PCR reaction was amplified with 30 cycles. The amplified DNA fragment comprised a sequence encoding a soluble murine 4-1BB polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 (Val) through 153 (Glu) of SEQ ID NO:5, i.e., a fragment of the extracellular domain terminating ten amino acids upstream of the transmembrane region. The resulting PCR products were digested with *SpeI* and *Bgl*II restriction enzymes.

A DNA encoding the Fc region of a human IgG1 antibody (to be fused to the 4-1BB-encoding sequence) was isolated as follows. SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:15 present the nucleotide and encoded amino acid sequences of a human IgG1 Fc polypeptide-encoding DNA inserted into the polylinker (multiple cloning site) of a pBluescript®SK cloning vector (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA). Amino acids 1-13 of SEQ ID NO:15 are encoded by the polylinker segment of the vector, and amino acids 14 (Glu) through 245 (Lys) constitute the Fc polypeptide. An Fc-encoding DNA fragment 699 base pairs in length was derived by cleaving the recombinant pBluescript®SK vector with *Bgl*II (the recognition site for which comprises nucleotides 47-52 of SEQ ID NO:14) and *SpeI* (which cleaves in the polylinker downstream of the inserted Fc sequence).

The Fc fragment and the murine 4-1BB extracellular domain fragment isolated by PCR above were cloned into an *SpeI*-cleaved Smag 4 vector in a three-way ligation. The Smag 4 vector comprises a murine interleukin-7 (IL-7) leader sequence inserted into the mammalian high expression vector pDC201 (described in Sims et al., *Science* 241:585, 1988, and in PCT application WO 89/03884), which is capable of replication in *E. coli*. *E. coli* cells were transfected with the ligation mixture and the desired recombinant vector (comprising the Fc-encoding DNA joined to the C-terminus of the 4-1BB-encoding DNA via the *Bgl*II sites) was isolated therefrom.

The gene fusion encoding the soluble 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein was excised by digesting the recombinant Smag 4 vector with *Bam*HI. The fragment encoding the fusion protein was isolated, the ends were filled in using the Klenow fragment of DNA

polymerase I, and the resulting blunt-ended fragment was ligated into a SalI cleaved (blunt ended) dephosphorylated HAV-EO vector.

The gene fusion was transferred to the HAV-EO vector (described by Dower et al., *J. Immunol.* 142:4314; 1989) in order to improve expression levels. The HAV-EO vector
5 is a derivative of pDC201 and allows for high level expression in CV-1/EBNA cells. The CV-1/EBNA cell line (ATCC 10478) was derived by transfecting the African green monkey kidney cell line CV-1 (ATCC CCL-70) with a gene encoding Epstein-Barr virus nuclear antigen-1 (EBNA-1), as described by McMahan et al. (*EMBO J.* 10:2821,1991).
10 The CV-1/EBNA cells constitutively express EBNA-1 driven from the human cytomegalovirus (CMV) intermediate-early enhancer/promoter. The EBNA-1 gene allows for episomal replication of expression vectors such as HAV-EO that contain the EBV origin of replication.

The recombinant HAV-EO vector containing the 4-1BB/Fc gene fusion was transfected into CV-1/EBNA cells using standard techniques. The transfected cells
15 transiently expressed and secreted a 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein into the culture supernatant, which was harvested after one week of cultivation. The 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein was purified by protein G affinity chromatography. More specifically, one liter of culture supernatant, containing the 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein, was passed over a solid phase protein G column, and the column was washed thoroughly with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS).
20 The adsorbed fusion protein was eluted with 50 mM glycine buffer, pH 3. Purified fusion protein was brought to pH 7 with 2 M Tris buffer, pH 9. Silver-stained SDS gels of the purified 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein showed it to be >98% pure.

Purified 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein was radioiodinated with ^{125}I using a commercially available solid phase reagent (IODO-GEN, Pierce Chemical Co., Rockford, Illinois). In this procedure, 5 μg of IODO-GEN were plated at the bottom of a 10 x 75 mm glass tube and incubated for twenty minutes at 4°C with 75 μl of 0.1M sodium phosphate, pH 7.4 and 20 μl (2 mCi) Na^{125}I . The solution was then transferred to a second glass tube containing 5 μg of 4-1BB/Fc in 45 μl PBS (phosphate buffered saline) and this reaction mixture was incubated for twenty minutes at 4°C. The reaction mixture was fractionated by
30 gel filtration on a 2 ml bed volume of Sephadex® G-25 (Sigma), and then equilibrated in RPMI 1640 medium containing 2.5% (v/v) bovine serum albumin (BSA), 0.2% (v/v) sodium azide and 20 mM Hepes, pH 7.4 binding medium. The final pool of ^{125}I -4-1BB/Fc was diluted to a working stock solution of $1 \times 10^{-7}\text{M}$ in binding medium and stored for up to one month at 4°C without detectable loss of receptor binding activity.
35

Approximately 50% - 60% label incorporation was observed. Radioiodination yielded specific activities in the range of 1×10^{15} to 5×10^{15} cpm/nmole (0.42 - 2.0 atoms of radioactive iodine per molecule of protein). SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

(SDS-PAGE) revealed a single labeled polypeptide consistent with expected values. The labeled fusion protein was greater than 98% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) precipitable, indicating that the ¹²⁵I was covalently bound to the protein.

5

EXAMPLE 2

Isolation of cDNA Encoding Human 4-1BB

A human cDNA library was screened with a murine 4-1BB DNA probe in an effort to isolate cDNA encoding a human 4-1BB by cross-species hybridization. The degree of homology between murine 4-1BB and human 4-1BB DNA was not known prior to 10 isolation and sequencing of human 4-1BB DNA by the following procedure.

A fragment of the murine 4-1BB DNA of SEQ ID NO:5 was isolated by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using conventional procedures. The template was cDNA synthesized using a first strand cDNA synthesis kit (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA) on RNA isolated from the induced murine T cell clone BD14-20 (see example 1). The 15 5' primer was the oligonucleotide presented as SEQ ID NO:9 and described in example 1. The 3' primer was the following oligonucleotide:

5' CAGACTAGTTCACTCTGGAGTCACAGAAATG 3' (SEQ ID NO:11)

This oligonucleotide comprises an SpeI site (double underline) and a sequence (underlined) that is complementary to nucleotides 510-528 of SEQ ID NO:5 (murine 20 4-1BB). The amplified PCR products (comprising nucleotides 70-528 of the murine 4-1BB sequence of SEQ ID NO:5) were ligated into a SmaI-digested pBLUESCRIPT[®]SK cloning vector (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA). *E. coli* cells were transfected with the ligation mixture, and the desired recombinant vector was recovered. The murine 4-1BB DNA insert was excised by digesting the recombinant vector with NotI and EcoRI. 25 The excised DNA was labeled with ³²P using a conventional random priming technique.

The labeled murine 4-1BB DNA fragment was used to screen a human cDNA library that was constructed as described by Park et al. (*Blood* 74:56, 1989). Briefly, the cDNA library was derived from poly A⁺ RNA isolated from human peripheral blood T-lymphocytes (purified by E rosetting) that had been activated for 18 hours with 30 phytohemagglutinin (PHA) and phorbol myristate acetate (PMA). Blunt-ended cDNA was methylated and *EcoR*1 linkers were attached, followed by ligation to λgt10 arms and packaging into phage λ extracts (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Hybridization was conducted at 37°C in 50% formamide, followed by washing in 35 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C. The cDNA insert of a hybridizing clone was isolated and sequenced. The nucleotide and encoded amino acid sequences of this human 4-1BB cDNA are presented in SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

The human 4-1BB protein comprises an N-terminal signal peptide (amino acids -23 to -1 of SEQ ID NO:8), an extracellular domain comprising amino acids 1-163, a transmembrane region comprising amino acids 164-190, and a cytoplasmic domain comprising amino acids 191-232. The human 4-1BB of SEQ ID NO:7 is 60% identical to murine 4-1BB at the amino acid level, and 71% identical at the DNA level.

EXAMPLE 3

Preparation of Human 4-1BB/Fc Fusion Protein for Use in Screening Clones

This example illustrates construction of an expression vector encoding a fusion protein comprising the extracellular domain of human 4-1BB fused to the N-terminus of an Fc region polypeptide derived from a human IgG1 antibody. The fusion protein was used for detecting clones encoding a human 4-1BB ligand.

A DNA fragment encoding a soluble human 4-1BB was isolated by PCR using the human 4-1BB cDNA synthesized in example 2 as a template. The 5' primer was the following oligonucleotide:

5' ATAGCGGCCGCTGCCAGATTTCATCATGGGAAAC 3' (SEQ ID NO:12)

This oligonucleotide comprises a NotI site (double underlined) and a segment (underlined) corresponding to nucleotides 106-128 of SEQ ID NO:7.

The 3' primer was the following oligonucleotide:

20 5' ACAAGATCTGGGCTCCTGCGGAGAGTGCCTGGCTCTCTC 3' (SEQ ID NO:13)

The oligonucleotide comprises a Bgl II site (double underlined) and a segment (underlined) complementary to nucleotides 653-677 of SEQ ID NO:7. The segment with a dotted underline is complementary to nucleotides 41-46 of SEQ ID NO:14 and serves to replace the codons for the first two amino acids of the Fc polypeptide (amino acids 14 and 15 of SEQ ID NO:14), which are upstream of the BglII site.

A DNA fragment encoding an antibody Fc region polypeptide was isolated by cleaving a recombinant vector comprising Fc-encoding DNA in pBLUESCRIPT[®]SK (described in example 1) with BglII and NotI. BglII cleaves near the 5' end of the Fc DNA, as described in example 1, and NotI cleaves in the polylinker of the vector downstream of the inserted Fc-encoding DNA.

In a 3-way ligation, the soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide-encoding DNA isolated by PCR above and the Fc-encoding BglII/NotI fragment were ligated into a NotI-digested expression vector pDC406 (described in McMahan et al., *EMBO J.*, 10:2821, 1991). *E. coli* cells were transformed with the ligation mixture and the desired recombinant vector was recovered. The fusion protein encoded by this vector comprised amino acids -23 to 163 of SEQ ID NO:8 (a soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide consisting of the signal peptide

and the entire extracellular domain) followed by amino acids 14-245 of SEQ ID NO:15 (Fc polypeptide). CV1-EBNA cells (described in example 1) were transfected with the recombinant vector and cultured to produce and secrete the soluble human 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein. The fusion protein was purified by protein G affinity chromatography for use in
5 identifying clones expressing human 4-1BB ligand, as described in example 5 below.

EXAMPLE 4

Isolation of Murine 4-1BB Ligand cDNA

This example describes the isolation of cDNA encoding a murine 4-1BB ligand
10 (4-1BB-L) using a direct expression cloning technique. The procedure was as follows.

Several cell lines were screened for the ability to bind the radioiodinated murine
4-1BB/Fc fusion protein described in Example 1. Briefly, quantitative binding studies
were performed according to standard methodology, and Scatchard plots were derived for
the various cell lines. A clonal cell line designated EL4 6.1C10 was identified as
15 expressing approximately 1500 molecules of a 4-1BB/Fc-binding protein per cell, with an
affinity binding constant of approximately $2 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}$. The EL4 6.1C10 cell line was
derived from a subclone designated EL4 6.1 by using a cell sorter to enrich for a cell
population expressing high levels of murine type I Interleukin-1 receptor, as described in
U.S. Patent 4,968,607. EL4 6.1 had been derived from a mouse thymoma cell line EL-4
20 (ATCC TIB 39) as described by MacDonald et al. (*J. Immunol.* 135:3944, 1985) and
Lowenthal and MacDonald (*J. Exp. Med.* 164:1060, 1986).

A cDNA library was derived from the EL4 6.1C10 cell line using a library
construction technique substantially similar to that described by Ausubel et al., eds.,
Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Vol. 1, (1987). Total RNA was extracted from
25 the EL4 6.1C10 cell line, poly (A)⁺ mRNA was isolated by oligo dT cellulose
chromatography, and double-stranded cDNA was made substantially as described by
Gubler et al., *Gene* 25:263 (1983). Briefly, poly(A)⁺ mRNA fragments were converted to
RNA-cDNA hybrids by reverse transcriptase using random hexanucleotides as primers.
The RNA-cDNA hybrids were then converted into double-stranded cDNA fragments using
30 RNase H in combination with DNA polymerase I. The resulting double-stranded cDNA
was blunt-ended with T4 DNA polymerase, ligated into SmaI-cleaved, dephosphorylated
expression vector pDC201 (described in Sims et al., *Science* 241:585, 1988, and in PCT
application WO 89/03884), and transformed into competent *E. coli* DH5 α cells.

Plasmid DNA was isolated from pools consisting of approximately 2,000 clones of
35 transformed *E. coli* per pool. The isolated plasmid DNA was transfected into a sub-
confluent layer of COS cells using DEAE-dextran followed by chloroquine treatment
substantially according to the procedures described in Luthman et al. (*Nucl. Acids Res.*

11:1295, 1983) and McCutchan et al. (*J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 41:351, 1986). Briefly, COS
cells were maintained in complete medium (Dulbecco's modified Eagles' media containing
10% (v/v) fetal calf serum, 50 U/ml penicillin, 50 U/ml streptomycin, and 2 mM
L-glutamine and were plated to a density of approximately 2×10^5 cells/well in single-well
5 chambered slides (Lab-Tek). The slides were pre-treated with 1 ml human fibronectin (10
 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ PBS) for 30 minutes followed by a single washing with PBS. Media was removed
from the monolayer of adherent cells and replaced with 1.5 ml complete medium containing
66.6 μM chloroquine sulfate. About 0.2 ml of a DNA solution (2 μg DNA, 0.5 mg/ml
DEAE-dextran in complete medium containing chloroquine) was added to the cells and the
10 mixture was incubated at 37°C for about five hours. Following incubation, media was
removed and the cells were shocked by addition of complete medium containing 10%
DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide) for 2.5 - 20 minutes. Shocking was followed by replacement
of the solution with fresh complete medium. The cells were grown in culture to permit
transient expression of the inserted DNA sequences. These conditions led to an 80%
15 transfection frequency in surviving COS cells.

After 48-72 hours in culture, monolayers of transfected COS cells were assayed by
slide autoradiography for expression of a protein that binds the radioiodinated murine
4-1BB/Fc fusion protein prepared in Example 1. The slide autoradiography technique was
essentially as described by Gearing et al. (*EMBO J.*, 8:3667, 1989). Briefly, the
20 transfected COS cells were washed once with binding medium (RPMI 1640 containing 25
mg/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA), 2 mg/ml sodium azide, 20 mM HEPES pH 7.2, and
50 mg/ml nonfat dry milk) and incubated for 2 hours at 4°C in binding medium containing
1 $\times 10^{-9}$ M ^{125}I -4-1BB/Fc fusion protein. After incubation, cells in the chambered slides
were washed three times with binding medium, followed by two washes with PBS, (pH
25 7.3) to remove unbound radiolabeled fusion protein.

The cells were fixed by incubating in 10% glutaraldehyde in PBS (30 minutes at
room temperature), washed twice in PBS and air-dried. The slides were dipped in Kodak
GTNB-2 photographic emulsion (6x dilution in water) and exposed in the dark for four
days at room temperature in a light-proof box. The slides were developed in Kodak D19
30 developer, rinsed in water and fixed in Agfa G433C fixer. The slides were individually
examined under a microscope at 25-40x magnification. Positive slides showing cells
expressing 4-1BB ligand were identified by the presence of autoradiographic silver grains
against a light background.

One pool containing approximately 2120 individual clones was identified as
35 potentially positive for binding the 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein. The pool was broken down
into smaller pools of approximately 250 colonies, from which DNA was isolated and
transfected into COS-7 cells. The transfectants were screened by slide autoradiography as

described above. Three positive pools were identified. Plasmid DNA isolated from individual colonies corresponding to the three positive pools was transfected into COS cells and screened by the same procedure.

- A single clone encoding a protein that binds murine 4-1BB/Fc was isolated.
- 5 Plasmid DNA was isolated from the clone, and the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert in the recombinant vector was determined. The cloned cDNA was found to encode a novel protein, a murine 4-1BB ligand (4-1BB-L) protein of the present invention. The nucleotide sequence of the isolated murine 4-1BB-L cDNA and the amino acid sequence encoded thereby are presented in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2. *E. coli* DH5 α cells transformed
10 with a recombinant vector comprising the murine 4-1BB-L-encoding cDNA of SEQ ID NO:1 in the mammalian expression vector pDC201 were deposited with the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD, on September 5, 1991, under accession no. ATCC 68682. The murine 4-1BB-L is a type II protein comprising a cytoplasmic domain (amino acids 1- 82 of SEQ ID NO:1); a transmembrane region (amino acids 83-103 of SEQ ID
15 NO:1); and an extracellular domain (amino acids 104-309 of SEQ ID NO:1).

EXAMPLE 5

Isolation of cDNA Encoding a Human 4-1BB Ligand

- Different cell lines were screened by flow cytometry for the ability to bind the
20 human 4-1BB/Fc (hu 4-1BB/Fc) fusion protein prepared in Example 3. Cells were initially incubated with hu4-1BB/Fc (10 μ g/ml), followed by biotinylated goat anti-human IgG, Fc-specific (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, West Grove, PA) and finally streptavidin-phycoerythrin (Becton-Dickinson). Flow cytometry was performed using a FACScan (Becton-Dickinson) and data were collected on 10^4 viable cells. An alloreactive
25 CD4 $^+$ human T cell clone designated PL1 stimulated with an anti-CD3 antibody exhibited 4-1BB/Fc binding. The receptor binding was detectable 30 minutes after stimulation and peaked 2-4 hours post-stimulation.

- Since peak production of mRNA would precede peak production of the
4-1BB-binding protein translated therefrom, total RNA was isolated from the PL1 cells 90
30 minutes after stimulation, and poly(A $^+$) RNA was isolated by oligo(dT) cellulose chromatography. cDNA was synthesized on the poly(A) $^+$ RNA template using oligo(dT) primers and a cDNA synthesis kit (Pharmacia Biotech, Inc., Piscataway, NJ). The resulting double-stranded cDNA was ligated into the BglII site of the mammalian expression vector pDC410 by a BglII adaptor method similar to that described by Haymerle et al. (*Nucl. Acids Res.* 14:8615, 1986).

The pDC410 vector is similar to pDC406 (McMahan et al., *EMBO J.*, 10:2821, 1991). In pDC410, the EBV origin of replication of pDC406 is replaced by DNA encoding

the SV40 large T antigen (driven from an SV40 promoter). The pDC410 multiple cloning site (mcs) differs from that of pDC406 in that it contains additional restriction sites and three stop codons (one in each reading frame). A T7 polymerase promoter downstream of the mcs facilitates sequencing of DNA inserted into the mcs. *E. coli* strain DH5 α cells
5 were transfected with the cDNA library in pDC410.

Plasmid DNA was isolated from the transformed *E. coli* cells, pooled, (each pool consisting of plasmid DNA from approximately 1000 individual colonies) and transfected into a sub-confluent layer of CV-1 EBNA cells (described in example 1). The transfection procedure was the DEAE-dextran followed by chloroquine treatment technique essentially
10 as described in Luthman et al., *Nucl. Acids Res.* 11:1295 (1983), McCutchan et al., *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 41:351 (1986). Prior to transfection, the CV1-EBNA cells were plated in single-well chambered slides (Lab-Tek) and grown in culture for two to three days to permit transient expression of the inserted DNA sequences.

The transfected cells then were assayed by slide autoradiography for expression of
15 4-1BB-L. The assay procedure was similar to that described in example 4, except that the transfected cells were incubated with two reagents. The cells were first washed with binding medium containing nonfat dry milk (BM-NFDM) and incubated with the human 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein prepared in Example 3, in non-radiolabeled form (1 μ g/ml in BM-NFDM) for one hour at room temperature. After washing three times with BM-NFDM,
20 cells were incubated with 40 ng/ml 125 I-mouse anti-human Fc antibody (a 1:50 dilution) for one hour at room temperature. The mouse anti-human Fc antibody was obtained from Jackson Immunoresearch Laboratories, Inc, West Grove, PA, and radiolabeled by the chloramine T method. After washing three times with BM-NFDM and twice with PBS, cell were fixed in glutaraldehyde and slides were processed as described in example 4.

25 The pool appearing to be most strongly positive was broken down into smaller pools. DNA from the smaller pools was transfected into CV1-EBNA cells and screened by slide autoradiography as described above. Positive pools were identified, and DNA from individual colonies corresponding to the positive pools was screened by the foregoing procedure. Two individual clones expressing 4-1BB-L proteins were isolated. The
30 nucleotide sequence of the human 4-1BB-L cDNA insert of one of the clones (clone 7A) and the amino acid sequence encoded thereby is presented in SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4. This human 4-1BB-L protein comprises a cytoplasmic domain (amino acids 1-25 of SEQ ID NO:4), a transmembrane region (amino acids 26-46), and an extracellular domain (amino acids 47-252).

35 The human 4-1BB-L amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 is about 33% identical to the murine 4-1BB-L amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and the nucleotide sequences are about 50% identical. The recombinant vector of clone 7A, i.e., human

4-1BB-L cDNA in vector pDC410, designated hu4-1BB-L (7A)/pDC410, was deposited in *E.coli* DH5 α with the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD on April 16, 1993, under accession number ATCC 69285.

5

EXAMPLE 6

Expression of Biologically Active Soluble 4-1BB-L in Mammalian Cells

Soluble 4-1BB-L was expressed in a monkey kidney cell line designated CV-1 (ATCC CCL 70). The expressed protein was biologically active in that it bound a 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein.

10 The soluble 4-1BB-L was produced as follows. DNA encoding amino acids 106 through 309 of the murine 4-1BB-L of SEQ ID NO:1 was isolated by PCR using oligonucleotide primers based on the nucleotide sequence presented in SEQ ID NO:1. The amplified DNA was inserted into the mammalian expression vector designated HAV-EO (described in example 1). cDNA encoding a heterologous (murine interleukin-7) leader 15 peptide, described in U.S. Patent 4,965,195 which is hereby incorporated by reference, was fused to the N-terminus of the 4-1BB-L cDNA to promote secretion of the soluble 4-1BB-L from the host cells. CV-1 cells were transformed with the resulting recombinant expression vector by conventional techniques.

20 The transformed CV-1 cells were cultured to permit expression and secretion of the soluble 4-1BB-L into the supernatant. Various concentrations of the supernatant were tested in a competitive binding assay for the ability to inhibit binding of soluble murine 4-1BB/Fc to EL4 6.1C10 cells. The soluble murine 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein was produced as described in example 1. The murine EL4 6.1C10 cell line expresses cell surface 4-1BB-L, as described in example 4.

25 The results of the assay, presented in Figure 1, demonstrate that the soluble murine 4-1BB-L protein expressed in CV-1 cells inhibits binding of a soluble murine 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein to EL4 6.1C10 cells. The soluble 4-1BB-L protein's ability to inhibit binding of 4-1BB/Fc to the cells indicates that the soluble 4-1BB-L is binding to the 4-1BB/Fc.

30 An expression vector encoding soluble human 4-1BB-L can be substituted for the murine 4-1BB-L-encoding vector in the foregoing procedure. Likewise, human 4-1BB/Fc would be substituted for murine 4-1BB/Fc, and human cells expressing 4-1BB employed in place of murine cells, in the competitive binding assay.

35 Figure 2 presents the result of a control experiment in which CV-1 cells were transformed with an "empty" HAV-EO vector (lacking any inserted 4-1BB-L DNA). Supernatant from a culture of the transformed cells did not inhibit binding of 4-1BB/Fc to EL4 6.1C10 cells when tested in the competitive binding assay.

EXAMPLE 7

Expression of Biologically Active Soluble 4-1BB-L in Yeast

Soluble recombinant 4-1BB-L expressed in yeast cells (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) was shown to be biologically active in that the expressed protein was able to bind a 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein. The 4-1BB-L protein was produced by inserting cDNA encoding amino acids 106 through 309 of the murine 4-1BB-L of SEQ ID NO:1 (isolated and amplified by PCR) into an expression vector comprising an ADH2 promoter (described above). The expression vector also contained DNA encoding the yeast α -factor leader peptide (described above) fused to the 5' end of DNA encoding a FLAG[®] peptide DYKDDDDK, which was fused to the 5' end of the 4-1BB-L DNA. The FLAG[®] octapeptide constitutes an epitope reversibly bound by a particular monoclonal antibody, which facilitates purification of recombinant proteins (4-1BB-L in this case), as described in U.S. patent 5,011,912. The octapeptide may be removed using bovine mucosal enterokinase, which specifically cleaves at the residue immediately following the DK pairing.

S. cerevisiae cells were transformed with the resulting recombinant expression vector by conventional techniques. The transformed cells were cultured to permit expression and secretion of the soluble 4-1BB-L into the supernatant. Various concentrations of the supernatant were tested in a competitive binding assay for the ability to inhibit binding of soluble murine 4-1BB/Fc to EL4 6.1C10 cells. The soluble murine 4-1BB-/Fc fusion protein was produced as described in example 1. Murine EL4 6.1C10 cells express cell surface 4-1BB-L, as described in example 4.

Figure 3 presents the results of the competitive binding assay, which demonstrates that the soluble murine 4-1BB-L protein expressed in *S. cerevisiae* cells inhibits binding of the murine 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein to EL4 6.1C10 cells. The 4-1BB-L protein thus is able to bind 4-1BB/Fc. Although recombinant 4-1BB-L can be expressed in yeast cells, mammalian cells are preferred as host cells. The specific activity of 4-1BB-L produced in yeast generally is lower than that of 4-1BB-L produced in mammalian cells such as CV-1.

30

EXAMPLE 8

Monoclonal Antibodies That Bind 4-1BB-L or 4-1BB

Murine 4-1BB-L or human 4-1BB-L protein may be purified by 4-1BB/Fc affinity chromatography as described above. Full length 4-1BB-L or immunogenic fragments thereof (e.g., the extracellular domain) can be used as an immunogen to generate monoclonal antibodies using conventional techniques, for example, those techniques described in U.S. Patent 4,411,993. Another alternative involves using a soluble

4-1BB-L/Fc fusion protein, comprising the extracellular domain of a 4-1BB-L fused to an antibody Fc polypeptide, as the immunogen.

- Briefly, mice are immunized with 4-1BB-L as an immunogen emulsified in complete Freund's adjuvant, and injected subcutaneously or intraperitoneally in amounts ranging from 10-100 µg. Ten to twelve days later, the immunized animals are boosted with additional 4-1BB-L emulsified in incomplete Freund's adjuvant. Mice are periodically boosted thereafter on a weekly to bi-weekly immunization schedule. Serum samples are periodically taken by retro-orbital bleeding or tail-tip excision for testing by dot blot assay or ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay), for antibodies that bind 4-1BB-L.
- Following detection of an appropriate antibody titer, positive animals are provided one last intravenous injection of 4-1BB-L in saline. Three to four days later, the animals are sacrificed, spleen cells harvested, and spleen cells are fused to a murine myeloma cell line (e.g., NS1 or Ag 8.653). The latter myeloma cell line is available from the American Type Culture Collection as P3x63Ag8.653 (ATCC CRL 1580). Fusions generate hybridoma cells, which are plated in microtiter plates in a HAT (hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine) selective medium to inhibit proliferation of non-fused cells, myeloma hybrids, and spleen cell hybrids.

The hybridoma cells are screened by ELISA for reactivity against purified 4-1BB-L by adaptations of the techniques disclosed in Engvall et al., *Immunochem.* 8:871 (1971) and in U.S. Patent 4,703,004. A preferred screening technique is the antibody capture technique described in Beckmann et al., (*J. Immunol.* 144:4212, 1990). Positive hybridoma cells can be injected intraperitoneally into syngeneic BALB/c mice to produce ascites containing high concentrations of anti-4-1BB-L monoclonal antibodies. Alternatively, hybridoma cells can be grown *in vitro* in flasks or roller bottles by various techniques. Monoclonal antibodies produced in mouse ascites can be purified by ammonium sulfate precipitation, followed by gel exclusion chromatography. Alternatively, affinity chromatography based upon binding of antibody to protein A or protein G can be used, as can affinity chromatography based upon binding to 4-1BB-L.

Purified human 4-1BB or immunogenic fragments thereof (e.g., a fragment derived from the extracellular domain) may be substituted for the 4-1BB-L immunogens in the foregoing procedures. In one embodiment, a soluble human 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein (e.g., as described in example 3) is employed as the immunogen. Monoclonal antibodies that bind human 4-1BB thus are prepared.

EXAMPLE 9**Dimeric Forms of the Inventive Proteins**

Preparation of fusion proteins comprising an antibody Fc polypeptide fused to the C-terminus of a soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide (such fusion proteins being referred to as 4-1BB/Fc hereinafter) is described in example 3. Disulfide bonds form between the Fc moieties, as in antibodies, resulting in dimers comprising two 4-1BB/Fc polypeptides. Such dimers may be recovered from cultures of cells expressing the 4-1BB/Fc fusion proteins.

Dimers comprising two 4-1BB-L/Fc polypeptides joined *via* disulfide bonds may 10 be prepared by analogous procedures. A DNA fragment encoding a soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptide is isolated by procedures described above (e.g., using oligonucleotides that define the desired termini of the fragment as primers in PCR). An expression vector comprising the isolated fragment fused to an Fc-encoding fragment is constructed by procedures analogous to those described in examples 1 and 3. The Fc polypeptide is 15 preferably fused to the N-terminus of the 4-1BB-L polypeptide, however. Dimers of 4-1BB-L/Fc are recovered from cultures of cells transformed with the expression vector.

The dimers preferably are produced in 293 cells (ATCC CRL 1573). The 293 cell line was derived from transformed primary human embryonal kidney cells.

20

EXAMPLE 10**Cross-Species Reactivity**

Inhibition studies were used to investigate cross-species binding of 4-1BB to its ligand. 2.5×10^6 EL4 6.1 cells (murine thymoma subclone) expressing 1800 mu4-1BB surface ligands/cell were incubated with 0.1 nM ^{125}I -mu4-1BB/Fc (1×10^{15} cpm/mmol) 25 and serially diluted, unlabeled human or murine 4-1BB/Fc in a total volume of 150 μl binding media for 2 hours at 4°C. Duplicate aliquots were microfuged through a phthalate oil mixture in 400 μl plastic tubes (essentially as described in Smith et al., *Cell* 73:1349, 1993) to separate bound and free 4-1BB/Fc. The tubes were cut, and top (free) and bottom (bound) 4-1BB/Fc counted. Nonspecific binding was determined by inclusion of a 200-fold molar excess of unlabeled mu4-1BB/Fc.

Unlabeled mu4-1BB/Fc completely inhibited ^{125}I -mu4-1BB/Fc binding to native surface mu4-1BB-L. Unlabeled hu4-1BB/Fc, however, showed no detectable competition with ^{125}I -mu4-1BB/Fc for binding to native murine ligand.

Cross-species binding was also assessed qualitatively with the sensitive slide 35 autoradiography assay. Consistent with the inhibition studies, hu4-1BB/Fc did not bind recombinant mu4-1BB-L expressed on the surface of CV-1 cells, and no binding of

mu4-1BB/Fc to CV-1 cells expressing hu4-1BB-L was detected. Thus, there appears to be no significant ligand/receptor cross-reactivity between human and mouse species.

EXAMPLE 11

5

Expression of Human 4-1BB-L mRNA

Northern blot analysis demonstrated the presence of multiple size classes of hu4-1BB-L mRNA transcripts. 4-1BB-L message was absent in resting PL-1 cells, but was present within 30 minutes after stimulation with immobilized anti-CD3 mAb, peaking at approximately one hour after stimulation. A hybridoma designated OKT3 that produces 10 an anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody is available from ATCC under the designation CRL 8001.

Transcripts were also observed in a variety of other human cell lines such as the EBV-transformed human B cell line MP-1, the monocytic cell line THP-1, the Mo-7E megakaryocytic cell line and the neuroblastoma SK-N-SH. Human 4-1BB-L transcripts 15 were absent in RNA isolated from the AML cell line KG-1. A Northern blot of RNAs from various human tissues (Clonetech, Palo Alto, CA) was also probed, which demonstrated the expression of 4-1BB-L transcripts in brain, placenta, lung, skeletal muscle and kidney. Transcripts were either not present, or present in very low amounts in heart, liver and pancreas.

20

EXAMPLE 12

Expression of Endogenous Human 4-1BB

A monoclonal antibody reactive with human 4-1BB was generated using the soluble human 4-1BB/Fc fusion protein of example 3 to immunize BALB/cJ mice, and screening 25 for reactivity with hu4-1BB/Fc but not human IgG1 by ELISA. This monoclonal antibody (IgG1 isotype) was employed to analyze the expression of hu4-1BB on a variety of primary human cells and cell lines. Northern blot analysis was also conducted. Human 4-1BB protein or message (detected by the antibody or the blot, respectively) was detected for activated primary T-cells, the alloreactive CD4⁺ T-cell clone PL-1, EBV transformed B 30 cell lines, the pro-monocytic cell line U937, and resting and activated peripheral blood monocytes.

EXAMPLE 13

Effect of 4-1BB-L on T-Cell Proliferation

35 (a) Peripheral Blood T-Cells

The ability of human 4-1BB-L to costimulate T-cell proliferation was assessed in a 3 day tritiated thymidine-incorporation assay. The assay procedure was generally as

described by Goodwin et al. (*Cell* 73:447, 1993). Briefly, human peripheral blood T-cells were isolated and cultured with a titration of fixed CV-1/EBNA cells transfected with either empty vector or an expression vector containing DNA encoding full length hu4-1BB-L, in the presence of suboptimal PHA (0.1%) as a costimulus. After 3 days, cultures were 5 pulsed with [³H] thymidine and incorporated radioactivity was assessed 6 hours later.

The results are shown in Figure 4. The open circles represent the CV-1/EBNA cells transfected with the empty expression vector, and closed circles represent the CV-1/EBNA cells transfected with the hu4-1BB-L-encoding expression vector.

The CV-1/EBNA cells expressing recombinant hu4-1BB-L markedly enhanced 10 T-cell proliferation induced by sub-optimal PHA, whereas control CV-1/EBNA cells had no effect. The hu4-1BB-L had no effect on T-cell proliferation in the absence of a costimulus.

Another thymidine incorporation assay was conducted as described above, except 15 that 10⁴ CV-1/EBNA cells were employed, rather than a titration. Additional controls included soluble hu4-1BB/Fc plus the cells expressing hu4-1BB-L; and a soluble human p80 tumor necrosis factor receptor (TNF-R)/Fc fusion protein plus the cells expressing hu4-1BB-L. Enhanced T-cell proliferation was again observed for T-cells cultured with PHA and cells expressing hu4-1BB-L. This enhancement of T-cell proliferation was specifically blocked by hu4-1BB/Fc but not by TNF-R/Fc.

20 (b) T-Cell Clone

The effect of hu4-1BB-L on a long term cultured T-cell clone was also analyzed. Chronically activated T-cells, such as long-term grown T-cell clones (TCC), are induced to undergo programmed cell death when stimulated with mitogens such as anti-CD3 mAb or 25 PHA in the absence of antigen-presenting cells (Wesselborg et al., *J. Immunol.* 150:4338, 1993). Since TCC express 4-1BB, we assessed the effect of 4-1BB-L on the growth of the alloreactive CD4⁺ human T-cell clone designated PL-1.

PL-1 cells were cultured for 3 days in the presence or absence of suboptimal PHA (0.1%) as costimulus and CV-1 cells transfected with either empty vector (control) or the expression vector containing DNA encoding full length human 4-1BB-L. Viability was 30 determined by trypan blue exclusion.

4-1BB-L had no effect on PL-1 viability or growth in the absence of a costimulus. However, in the presence of PHA, addition of CV-1/EBNA cells expressing 4-1BB-L reduced the viability of PL-1 cells from 57% to 31%. 4-1BB-L thus enhanced activation-induced cytolysis of the PL-1 cells.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT: Alderson, Mark R.
Goodwin, Raymond G.
Smith, Craig A.

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Cytokine Designated 4-1BB Ligand And
Human Receptor That Binds Thereto

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 15

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

(A) ADDRESSEE: Kathryn A. Seese, Immunex Corporation
(B) STREET: 51 University Street
(C) CITY: Seattle
(D) STATE: Washington
(E) COUNTRY: US
(F) ZIP: 98101

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
(B) FILING DATE:
(C) CLASSIFICATION:

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

(A) NAME: Seese, Kathryn A.
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 32,172
(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 2801-WO

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

(A) TELEPHONE: (206) 587-0430
(B) TELEFAX: (206) 233-0644

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1254 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:
(B) CLONE: murine 4-1BB-L

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 53..97

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

AGCCTATAAA GCACGGGCAC TGGCGGGAGA CGTCACTGA CCGACCGTGG TA ATG	Met	55
	1	
GAC CAG CAC ACA CTT GAT GTG GAG GAT ACC GCG GAT GCC AGA CAT CCA		
Asp Gln His Thr Leu Asp Val Glu Asp Thr Ala Asp Ala Arg His Pro		
5 10 15		
GCA GGT ACT TCG TGC CCC TCG GAT GCG GCG CTC CTC AGA GAT ACC GGG		
Ala Gly Thr Ser Cys Pro Ser Asp Ala Ala Leu Leu Arg Asp Thr Gly		
20 25 30		
CTC CTC GCG GAC GCT GCG CTC CTC TCA GAT ACT GTG CGC CCC ACA AAT		
Leu Leu Ala Asp Ala Ala Leu Leu Ser Asp Thr Val Arg Pro Thr Asn		
35 40 45		
GCC GCG CTC CCC ACG GAT GCT GCC TAC CCT GCG GTT AAT GTT CGG GAT		
Ala Ala Leu Pro Thr Asp Ala Ala Tyr Pro Ala Val Asn Val Arg Asp		
50 55 60		
CGC GAG GCC GCG TGG CCG CCT GCA CTG AAC TTC TGT TCC CGC CAC CCA		
Arg Glu Ala Ala Trp Pro Pro Ala Leu Asn Phe Cys Ser Arg His Pro		
70 75 80		
AAG CTC TAT GGC CTA GTC GCT TTG GTT TTG CTG CTT CTG ATC GCC GCC		
Lys Leu Tyr Gly Leu Val Ala Leu Val Leu Leu Leu Ile Ala Ala		
85 90 95		
TGT GTT CCT ATC TTC ACC CGC ACC GAG CCT CGG CCA GCG CTC ACA ATC		
Cys Val Pro Ile Phe Thr Arg Thr Glu Pro Arg Pro Ala Leu Thr Ile		
100 105 110		
ACC ACC TCG CCC AAC CTG GGT ACC CGA GAG AAT AAT GCA GAC CAG GTC		
Thr Thr Ser Pro Asn Leu Gly Thr Arg Glu Asn Asn Ala Asp Gln Val		
115 120 125		
ACC CCT GTT TCC CAC ATT GGC TGC CCC AAC ACT ACA CAA CAG GGC TCT		
Thr Pro Val Ser His Ile Gly Cys Pro Asn Thr Thr Gln Gln Gly Ser		
130 135 140		
CCT GTG TTC GCC AAG CTA CTG GCT AAA AAC CAA GCA TCG TTG TGC AAT		
Pro Val Phe Ala Lys Leu Leu Ala Lys Asn Gln Ala Ser Leu Cys Asn		
150 155 160		
ACA ACT CTG AAC TGG CAC AGC CAA GAT GGA GCT GGG AGC TCA TAC CTA		
Thr Thr Leu Asn Trp His Ser Gln Asp Gly Ala Gly Ser Ser Tyr Leu		
165 170 175		
TCT CAA GGT CTG AGG TAC GAA GAA GAC AAA AAG GAG TTG GTG GTA GAC		
Ser Gln Gly Leu Arg Tyr Glu Glu Asp Lys Lys Glu Leu Val Val Asp		
180 185 190		

AGT CCC GGG CTC TAC TAC GTA TTT TTG GAA CTG AAG CTC AGT CCA ACA Ser Pro Gly Leu Tyr Tyr Val Phe Leu Glu Leu Lys Leu Ser Pro Thr 195 200 205	679
TTC ACA AAC ACA GGC CAC AAG GTG CAG GGC TGG GTC TCT CTT GTT TTG Phe Thr Asn Thr Gly His Lys Val Gln Gly Trp Val Ser Leu Val Leu 210 215 220 225	727
CAA GCA AAG CCT CAG GTA GAT GAC TTT GAC AAC TTG GCC CTG ACA GTG Gln Ala Lys Pro Gln Val Asp Asp Phe Asp Asn Leu Ala Leu Thr Val 230 235 240	775
GAA CTG TTC CCT TGC TCC ATG GAG AAC AAG TTA GTG GAC CGT TCC TGG Glu Leu Phe Pro Cys Ser Met Glu Asn Lys Leu Val Asp Arg Ser Trp 245 250 255	823
AGT CAA CTG TTG CTC CTG AAG GCT GGC CAC CGC CTC AGT GTG GGT CTG Ser Gln Leu Leu Leu Lys Ala Gly His Arg Leu Ser Val Gly Leu 260 265 270	871
AGG GCT TAT CTG CAT GGA GCC CAG GAT GCA TAC AGA GAC TGG GAG CTG Arg Ala Tyr Leu His Gly Ala Gln Asp Ala Tyr Arg Asp Trp Glu Leu 275 280 285	919
TCT TAT CCC AAC ACC ACC AGC TTT GGA CTC TTT CTT GTG AAA CCC GAC Ser Tyr Pro Asn Thr Thr Ser Phe Gly Leu Phe Leu Val Lys Pro Asp 290 295 300 305	967
AAC CCA TGG GAA TGAGAACTAT CCTTCTTGTG ACTCCTAGTT GCTAAGTCCT Asn Pro Trp Glu	1019
CAAGCTGCTA TGTTTATGG GGTCTGAGCA GGGGTCCCTT CCATGACTTT CTCTTGTCTT TAACTGGACT TGGTATTAT TCTGAGCATA GCTCAGACAA GACTTTATAT AATTCACTAG ATAGCATTAG TAAACTGCTG GGCAAGCTGCT AGATAAAAAAA AAATTTCTAA ATCAAAGTTT ATATTTATAT TAATATATAA AAATAAATGT GTTTGTAAAT AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAA	1079 1139 1199 1254

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 309 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Met Asp Gln His Thr Leu Asp Val Glu Asp Thr Ala Asp Ala Arg His 1 5 10 15
Pro Ala Gly Thr Ser Cys Pro Ser Asp Ala Ala Leu Leu Arg Asp Thr 20 25 30
Gly Leu Leu Ala Asp Ala Ala Leu Leu Ser Asp Thr Val Arg Pro Thr 35 40 45

Asn	Ala	Ala	Leu	Pro	Thr	Asp	Ala	Ala	Tyr	Pro	Ala	Val	Asn	Val	Arg
50						55					60				
Asp	Arg	Glu	Ala	Ala	Trp	Pro	Pro	Ala	Leu	Asn	Phe	Cys	Ser	Arg	His
65					70					75				80	
Pro	Lys	Leu	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Val	Ala	Leu	Val	Leu	Leu	Leu	Ile	Ala	
					85				90				95		
Ala	Cys	Val	Pro	Ile	Phe	Thr	Arg	Thr	Glu	Pro	Arg	Pro	Ala	Leu	Thr
				100				105				110			
Ile	Thr	Thr	Ser	Pro	Asn	Leu	Gly	Thr	Arg	Glu	Asn	Asn	Ala	Asp	Gln
				115				120				125			
Val	Thr	Pro	Val	Ser	His	Ile	Gly	Cys	Pro	Asn	Thr	Thr	Gln	Gln	Gly
				130				135			140				
Ser	Pro	Val	Phe	Ala	Lys	Leu	Leu	Ala	Lys	Asn	Gln	Ala	Ser	Leu	Cys
				145				150			155			160	
Asn	Thr	Thr	Leu	Asn	Trp	His	Ser	Gln	Asp	Gly	Ala	Gly	Ser	Ser	Tyr
				165				170				175			
Leu	Ser	Gln	Gly	Leu	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Asp	Lys	Lys	Glu	Leu	Val	Val
				180				185				190			
Asp	Ser	Pro	Gly	Leu	Tyr	Tyr	Val	Phe	Leu	Glu	Leu	Lys	Leu	Ser	Pro
				195				200			205				
Thr	Phe	Thr	Asn	Thr	Gly	His	Lys	Val	Gln	Gly	Trp	Val	Ser	Leu	Val
				210				215			220				
Leu	Gln	Ala	Lys	Pro	Gln	Val	Asp	Asp	Phe	Asp	Asn	Leu	Ala	Leu	Thr
				225				230			235			240	
Val	Glu	Leu	Phe	Pro	Cys	Ser	Met	Glu	Asn	Lys	Leu	Val	Asp	Arg	Ser
				245				250				255			
Trp	Ser	Gln	Leu	Leu	Leu	Lys	Ala	Gly	His	Arg	Leu	Ser	Val	Gly	
				260				265			270				
Leu	Arg	Ala	Tyr	Leu	His	Gly	Ala	Gln	Asp	Ala	Tyr	Arg	Asp	Trp	Glu
				275				280			285				
Leu	Ser	Tyr	Pro	Asn	Thr	Thr	Ser	Phe	Gly	Leu	Phe	Leu	Val	Lys	Pro
				290				295			300				
Asp	Asn	Pro	Trp	Glu											
				305											

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 1619 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:

(B) CLONE: human 4-1BB-L(7A)

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS

(B) LOCATION: 4..765

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

GTC ATG GAA TAC GCC TCT GAC GCT TCA CTG GAC CCC GAA GCC CCG TGG Met Glu Tyr Ala Ser Asp Ala Ser Leu Asp Pro Glu Ala Pro Trp 1 5 10 15	48
CCT CCC GCG CCC CGC GCT CGC GCC TGC CGC GTA CTG CCT TGG GCC CTG Pro Pro Ala Pro Arg Ala Arg Ala Cys Arg Val Leu Pro Trp Ala Leu 20 25 30	96
GTC GCG GGG CTG CTG CTG CTG CTG CTC GCT GCC GCC TGC GCC GTC Val Ala Gly Leu Leu Leu Leu Leu Ala Ala Ala Cys Ala Val 35 40 45	144
TTC CTC GCC TGC CCC TGG GCC GTG TCC GGG GCT CGC GCC TCG CCC GGC Phe Leu Ala Cys Pro Trp Ala Val Ser Gly Ala Arg Ala Ser Pro Gly 50 55 60	192
TCC GCG GCC AGC CCG AGA CTC CGC GAG GGT CCC GAG CTT TCG CCC GAC Ser Ala Ala Ser Pro Arg Leu Arg Glu Gly Pro Glu Leu Ser Pro Asp 65 70 75	240
GAT CCC GCC GGC CTC TTG GAC CTG CGG CAG GGC ATG TTT GCG CAG CTG Asp Pro Ala Gly Leu Leu Asp Leu Arg Gln Gly Met Phe Ala Gln Leu 80 85 90 95	288
GTG GCC CAA AAT GTT CTG CTG ATC GAT GGG CCC CTG AGC TGG TAC AGT Val Ala Gln Asn Val Leu Leu Ile Asp Gly Pro Leu Ser Trp Tyr Ser 100 105 110	336
GAC CCA GGC CTG GCA GGC GTG TCC CTG ACG GGG GGC CTG AGC TAC AAA Asp Pro Gly Leu Ala Gly Val Ser Leu Thr Gly Gly Leu Ser Tyr Lys 115 120 125	384
GAG GAC ACG AAG GAG CTG GTG GTG GCC AAG GCT GGA GTC TAC TAT GTC Glu Asp Thr Lys Glu Leu Val Val Ala Lys Ala Gly Val Tyr Tyr Val 130 135 140	432
TTC TTT CAA CTA GAG CTG CGG CGC GTG GTG GCC GGC GAG GGC TCA GGC Phe Phe Gln Leu Glu Leu Arg Arg Val Val Ala Gly Glu Gly Ser Gly 145 150 155	480
TCC GTT TCA CTT GCG CTG CAC CTG CAG CCA CTG CGC TCT GCT GCT GGG Ser Val Ser Leu Ala Leu His Leu Gln Pro Leu Arg Ser Ala Ala Gly 160 165 170 175	528

GCC GCC GCC CTG GCT TTG ACC GTG GAC CTG CCA CCC GCC TCC TCC GAG Ala Ala Ala Leu Ala Leu Thr Val Asp Leu Pro Pro Ala Ser Ser Glu 180	185	190	576
GCT CGG AAC TCG GCC TTC GGT TTC CAG GGC CGC TTG CTG CAC CTG AGT Ala Arg Asn Ser Ala Phe Gly Phe Gly Arg Leu Leu His Leu Ser 195	200	205	624
GCC GGC CAG CGC CTG GGC GTC CAT CTT CAC ACT GAG GCC AGG GCA CGC Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Gly Val His Leu His Thr Glu Ala Arg Ala Arg 210	215	220	672
CAT GCC TGG CAG CTT ACC CAG GGC GCC ACA GTC TTG GGA CTC TTC CGG His Ala Trp Gln Leu Thr Gln Gly Ala Thr Val Leu Gly Leu Phe Arg 225	230	235	720
G TG ACC CCC GAA ATC CCA GCC GGA CTC CCT TCA CCG AGG TCG GAA Val Thr Pro Glu Ile Pro Ala Gly Leu Pro Ser Pro Arg Ser Glu 240	245	250	765
AACGCCAGC CTGGGTGCAG CCCACCTGGA CAGAGTCCGA ATCCTACTCC ATCCTTCATG			826
GAGACCCCTG GTGCTGGTC CCTGCTGCTT TCTCTACCTC AAGGGGCTTG GCAGGGTCC			886
CTGCTGCTGA CCTCCCCCTG AGGACCCTCC TCACCCACTC CTTCCCCAAG TTGGACCTTG			946
ATATTATTC TGAGCCTGAG CTCAGATAAT ATATTATATA TATTATATAT ATATATATAT			1006
TTCTATTTAA AGAGGATCCT GAGTTGTGA ATGGACTTT TTAGAGGAGT TGTTTGGGG			1066
GGGGGGTCTT CGACATTGCC GAGGCTGGTC TTGAACCTCT GGACTTAGAC GATCCTCTG			1126
CCTCAGCCTC CCAAGCAACT GGGATTCATC CTTTCTATTA ATTCAATTGTA CTTATTTGCC			1186
TATTTGTGTG TATTGAGCAT CTGTAATGTG CCAGCATGTG GCCCAGGCTA GGGGGCTATA			1246
GAAACATCTA GAAATAGACT GAAAGAAAAT CTGAGTTATG GTAATACGTG AGGAATTAA			1306
AGACTCATCC CCAGCCTCCA CCTCCTGTGT GATACTTGGG GGCTAGCTTT TTTCTTTCTT			1366
TCTTTTTTTT GAGATGGTCT TGTTCTGTCA ACCAGGCTAG AATGCAGCGG TGCAATCATG			1426
AGTCAATGCA GCCTCCAGCC TCGACCTCCC GAGGCTCAGG TGATCCTCCC ATCTCAGCCT			1486
CTCGAGTAGC TGGGACCACA GTTGTGTGCC ACCACACTTG GCTAACCTTT TAATTTTTT			1546
GCGGAGACGG TATTGCTATG TTGCCAAGGT TGTTACATG CCAGTACAAT TTATAATAAA			1606
CACTCATTTC TCC			1619

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 254 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Met	Glu	Tyr	Ala	Ser	Asp	Ala	Ser	Leu	Asp	Pro	Glu	Ala	Pro	Trp	Pro
1	.	.	5	.	.	10	.	.	15
Pro	Ala	Pro	Arg	Ala	Arg	Ala	Cys	Arg	Val	Leu	Pro	Trp	Ala	Leu	Val
	20						25						30		
Ala	Gly	Leu	Leu	Leu	Leu	Leu	Leu	Ala	Ala	Ala	Cys	Ala	Val	Phe	
	35						40					45			
Leu	Ala	Cys	Pro	Trp	Ala	Val	Ser	Gly	Ala	Arg	Ala	Ser	Pro	Gly	Ser
	50					55					60				
Ala	Ala	Ser	Pro	Arg	Leu	Arg	Glu	Gly	Pro	Glu	Leu	Ser	Pro	Asp	Asp
	65				70				75					80	
Pro	Ala	Gly	Leu	Leu	Asp	Leu	Arg	Gln	Gly	Met	Phe	Ala	Gln	Leu	Val
					85				90					95	
Ala	Gln	Asn	Val	Leu	Leu	Ile	Asp	Gly	Pro	Leu	Ser	Trp	Tyr	Ser	Asp
					100				105				110		
Pro	Gly	Leu	Ala	Gly	Val	Ser	Leu	Thr	Gly	Gly	Leu	Ser	Tyr	Lys	Glu
					115			120					125		
Asp	Thr	Lys	Glu	Leu	Val	Val	Ala	Lys	Ala	Gly	Val	Tyr	Tyr	Val	Phe
						130		135				140			
Phe	Gln	Leu	Glu	Leu	Arg	Arg	Val	Val	Ala	Gly	Glu	Gly	Ser	Gly	Ser
						145		150			155				160
Val	Ser	Leu	Ala	Leu	His	Leu	Gln	Pro	Leu	Arg	Ser	Ala	Ala	Gly	Ala
						165			170				175		
Ala	Ala	Leu	Ala	Leu	Thr	Val	Asp	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ala	Ser	Ser	Glu	Ala
						180			185				190		
Arg	Asn	Ser	Ala	Phe	Gly	Phe	Gln	Gly	Arg	Leu	Leu	His	Leu	Ser	Ala
						195		200				205			
Gly	Gln	Arg	Leu	Gly	Val	His	Leu	His	Thr	Glu	Ala	Arg	Ala	Arg	His
						210		215			220				
Ala	Trp	Gln	Leu	Thr	Gln	Gly	Ala	Thr	Val	Leu	Gly	Leu	Phe	Arg	Val
						225		230			235				240
Thr	Pro	Glu	Ile	Pro	Ala	Gly	Leu	Pro	Ser	Pro	Arg	Ser	Glu		
						245			250						

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 768 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:

(B) CLONE: mu4-1BB

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 1..768

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: mat_peptide
(B) LOCATION: 70..768

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: sig_peptide
(B) LOCATION: 1..69

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

ATG GGA AAC AAC TGT TAC AAC GTG GTG GTC ATT GTG CTG CTG CTA GTG	48
Met Gly Asn Asn Cys Tyr Asn Val Val Val Ile Val Leu Leu Val	
-23 -20 -15 -10	
GGC TGT GAG AAG GTG GGA GCC GTG CAG AAC TCC TGT GAT AAC TGT CAG	96
Gly Cys Glu Lys Val Gly Ala Val Gln Asn Ser Cys Asp Asn Cys Gln	
-5 1 5	
CCT GGT ACT TTC TGC AGA AAA TAC AAT CCA GTC TGC AAG AGC TGC CCT	144
Pro Gly Thr Phe Cys Arg Lys Tyr Asn Pro Val Cys Lys Ser Cys Pro	
10 15 20 25	
CCA AGT ACC TTC TCC AGC ATA GGT GGA CAG CCG AAC TGT AAC ATC TGC	192
Pro Ser Thr Phe Ser Ser Ile Gly Gly Gln Pro Asn Cys Asn Ile Cys	
30 35 40	
AGA GTG TGT GCA GGC TAT TTC AGG TTC AAG AAG TTT TGC TCC TCT ACC	240
Arg Val Cys Ala Gly Tyr Phe Arg Phe Lys Lys Phe Cys Ser Ser Thr	
45 50 55	
CAC AAC GCG GAG TGT GAG TGC ATT GAA GGA TTC CAT TGC TTG GGG CCA	288
His Asn Ala Glu Cys Glu Cys Ile Glu Gly Phe His Cys Leu Gly Pro	
60 65 70	
CAG TGC ACC AGA TGT GAA AAG GAC TGC AGG CCT GGC CAG GAG CTA ACG	336
Gln Cys Thr Arg Cys Glu Lys Asp Cys Arg Pro Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr	
75 80 85	
AAG CAG GGT TGC AAA ACC TGT AGC TTG GGA ACA TTT AAT GAC CAG AAC	384
Lys Gln Gly Cys Lys Thr Cys Ser Leu Gly Thr Phe Asn Asp Gln Asn	
90 95 100 105	
GGT ACT GGC GTC TGT CGA CCC TGG ACG AAC TGC TCT CTA GAC GGA AGG	432
Gly Thr Gly Val Cys Arg Pro Trp Thr Asn Cys Ser Leu Asp Gly Arg	
110 115 120	

TCT GTG CTT AAG ACC GGG ACC ACG GAG AAG GAC GTG GTG TGT GGA CCC	480
Ser Val Leu Lys Thr Gly Thr Thr Glu Lys Asp Val Val Cys Gly Pro	
125 130 135	
CCT GTG GTG AGC TTC TCT CCC AGT ACC ACC ATT TCT GTG ACT CCA GAG	528
Pro Val Val Ser Phe Ser Pro Ser Thr Thr Ile Ser Val Thr Pro Glu	
140 145 150	
GGA GGA CCA GGA GGG CAC TCC TTG CAG GTC CTT ACC TTG TTC CTG GCG	576
Gly Gly Pro Gly Gly His Ser Leu Gln Val Leu Thr Leu Phe Leu Ala	
155 160 165	
CTG ACA TCG GCT TTG CTG CTG GCC CTG ATC TTC ATT ACT CTC CTG TTC	624
Leu Thr Ser Ala Leu Leu Ala Leu Ile Phe Ile Thr Leu Leu Phe	
170 175 180 185	
TCT GTG CTC AAA TGG ATC AGG AAA AAA TTC CCC CAC ATA TTC AAG CAA	672
Ser Val Leu Lys Trp Ile Arg Lys Lys Phe Pro His Ile Phe Lys Gln	
190 195 200	
CCA TTT AAG AAG ACC ACT GGA GCA GCT CAA GAG GAA GAT GCT TGT AGC	720
Pro Phe Lys Lys Thr Thr Gly Ala Ala Gln Glu Glu Asp Ala Cys Ser	
205 210 215	
TGC CGA TGT CCA CAG GAA GAA GGA GGA GGA GGA GGC TAT GAG CTG	768
Cys Arg Cys Pro Gln Glu Glu Glu Gly Gly Gly Gly Tyr Glu Leu	
220 225 230	

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

 - (A) LENGTH: 256 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

Met Gly Asn Asn Cys Tyr Asn Val Val Val Val Ile Val Leu Leu Leu Val
-23 -20 -15 -10

Gly Cys Glu Lys Val Gly Ala Val Gln Asn Ser Cys Asp Asn Cys Gln
-5 1 5

Pro Gly Thr Phe Cys Arg Lys Tyr Asn Pro Val Cys Lys Ser Cys Pro
10 15 20 25

Arg Val Cys Ala Gly Tyr Phe Arg Phe Lys Lys Phe Cys Ser Ser Thr
 45 50 55

His Asn Ala Glu Cys Glu Cys Ile Glu Gly Phe His Cys Leu Gly Pro
60 65 70

Gln Cys Thr Arg Cys Glu Lys Asp Cys Arg Pro Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr
75 80 85

Lys Gln Gly Cys Lys Thr Cys Ser Leu Gly Thr Phe Asn Asp Gln Asn
 90 95 100 105
 Gly Thr Gly Val Cys Arg Pro Trp Thr Asn Cys Ser Leu Asp Gly Arg
 110 115 120
 Ser Val Leu Lys Thr Gly Thr Thr Glu Lys Asp Val Val Cys Gly Pro
 125 130 135
 Pro Val Val Ser Phe Ser Pro Ser Thr Thr Ile Ser Val Thr Pro Glu
 140 145 150
 Gly Gly Pro Gly Gly His Ser Leu Gln Val Leu Thr Leu Phe Leu Ala
 155 160 165
 Leu Thr Ser Ala Leu Leu Ala Leu Ile Phe Ile Thr Leu Leu Phe
 170 175 180 185
 Ser Val Leu Lys Trp Ile Arg Lys Lys Phe Pro His Ile Phe Lys Gln
 190 195 200
 Pro Phe Lys Lys Thr Thr Gly Ala Ala Gln Glu Glu Asp Ala Cys Ser
 205 210 215
 Cys Arg Cys Pro Gln Glu Glu Gly Gly Gly Gly Tyr Glu Leu
 220 225 230

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 1415 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA
- (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO
- (iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO
- (vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:
 - (B) CLONE: hu4-1BB
- (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 - (B) LOCATION: 120..887
- (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: mat_peptide
 - (B) LOCATION: 189..884
- (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: sig_peptide
 - (B) LOCATION: 120..188

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

AGTGGAAAGT TCTCCGGCAG CCCTGAGATC TCAAGAGTGA CATTTGTGAG ACCAGCTAAT	60
TTGATTAAAA TTCTCTTGGG ATCAGCTTG CTAGTATCAT ACCTGTGCCA GATTCATC	119
ATG GGA AAC AGC TGT TAC AAC ATA GTA GCA ACT CTG TTG CTG GTC CTC Met Gly Asn Ser Cys Tyr Asn Ile Val Ala Thr Leu Leu Leu Val Leu	167
-23 -20 -15 -10	
AAC TTT GAG AGG ACA AGA TCA TTG CAG GAT CCT TGT AGT AAC TGC CCA Asn Phe Glu Arg Thr Arg Ser Leu Gln Asp Pro Cys Ser Asn Cys Pro	215
-5 1 5	
GCT GGT ACA TTC TGT GAT AAT AAC AGG AAT CAG ATT TGC AGT CCC TGT Ala Gly Thr Phe Cys Asp Asn Arg Asn Gln Ile Cys Ser Pro Cys	263
10 15 20 25	
CCT CCA AAT AGT TTC TCC AGC GCA GGT GGA CAA AGG ACC TGT GAC ATA Pro Pro Asn Ser Phe Ser Ala Gly Gly Gln Arg Thr Cys Asp Ile	311
30 35 40	
TGC AGG CAG TGT AAA GGT GTT TTC AGG ACC AGG AAG GAG TGT TCC TCC Cys Arg Gln Cys Lys Gly Val Phe Arg Thr Arg Lys Glu Cys Ser Ser	359
45 50 55	
ACC AGC AAT GCA GAG TGT GAC TGC ACT CCA GGG TTT CAC TGC CTG GGG Thr Ser Asn Ala Glu Cys Asp Cys Thr Pro Gly Phe His Cys Leu Gly	407
60 65 70	
GCA GGA TGC AGC ATG TGT GAA CAG GAT TGT AAA CAA GGT CAA GAA CTG Ala Gly Cys Ser Met Cys Glu Gln Asp Cys Lys Gln Gly Gln Glu Leu	455
75 80 85	
ACA AAA AAA GGT TGT AAA GAC TGT TGC TTT GGG ACA TTT AAC GAT CAG Thr Lys Lys Gly Cys Lys Asp Cys Cys Phe Gly Thr Phe Asn Asp Gln	503
90 95 100 105	
AAA CGT GGC ATC TGT CGA CCC TGG ACA AAC TGT TCT TTG GAT GGA AAG Lys Arg Gly Ile Cys Arg Pro Trp Thr Asn Cys Ser Leu Asp Gly Lys	551
110 115 120	
TCT GTG CTT GTG AAT GGG ACG AAG GAG AGG GAC GTG GTC TGT GGA CCA Ser Val Leu Val Asn Gly Thr Lys Glu Arg Asp Val Val Cys Gly Pro	599
125 130 135	
TCT CCA GCC GAC CTC TCT CCG GGA GCA TCC TCT GTG ACC CCG CCT GCC Ser Pro Ala Asp Leu Ser Pro Gly Ala Ser Ser Val Thr Pro Pro Ala	647
140 145 150	
CCT GCG AGA GAG CCA GGA CAC TCT CCG CAG ATC ATC TCC TTC TTT CTT Pro Ala Arg Glu Pro Gly His Ser Pro Gln Ile Ile Ser Phe Phe Leu	695
155 160 165	
GCG CTG ACG TCG ACT GCG TTG CTC TTC CTG CTG TTC TTC CTC ACG CTC Ala Leu Thr Ser Thr Ala Leu Leu Phe Leu Leu Phe Phe Leu Thr Leu	743
170 175 180 185	

CGT TTC TCT GTT GTT AAA CGG GGC AGA AAG AAA CTC CTG TAT ATA TTC	791
Arg Phe Ser Val Val Lys Arg Gly Arg Lys Lys Leu Leu Tyr Ile Phe	
190 195 200	
AAA CAA CCA TTT ATG AGA CCA GTA CAA ACT ACT CAA GAG GAA GAT GGC	839
Lys Gln Pro Phe Met Arg Pro Val Gln Thr Thr Gln Glu Glu Asp Gly	
205 210 215	
TGT AGC TGC CGA TTT CCA GAA GAA GAA GGA GGA TGT GAA CTG TGAAATGGAA	
894	
Cys Ser Cys Arg Phe Pro Glu Glu Glu Gly Gly Cys Glu Leu	
220 225 230	
GTCAAATAGGG CTGTTGGGAC TTTCTTGAAA AGAACGAAAGG AAATATGAGT CATCCGCTAT	954
CACAGCTTTC AAAAGCAAGA ACACCACCT ACATAATACC CAGGATTCCC CCAACACACG	1014
TTCTTTCTA AATGCCAATG AGTGGCCTT TAAAAATGCA CCACCTTTTT TTTTTTTTTT	1074
GACAGGGTCT CACTCTGTCA CCCAGGCTGG AGTGCAGTGG CACCACCATG GCTCTCTGCA	1134
GCCTTGACCT CTGGGAGCTC AAGTGATCCT CCTGCCTCAG TCTCCTAGTA GCTGGAACTA	1194
CAAGGAAGGG CCACCCACACC TGACTAACTT TTTTGTTTTT TGTTTGGTAA AGATGGCATT	1254
TCGCCATGTT GTACAGGCTG GTCTCAAACCT CCTAGGTTCA CTTTGGCCTC CCAAAGTGCT	1314
GGGATTACAG ACATGAACTG CCAGGCCCGG CCAAAATAAT GCACCACTTT TAACAGAACAA	1374
GACAGATGAG GACAGAGCTG GTGATAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA A	1415

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 255 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

Met Gly Asn Ser Cys Tyr Asn Ile Val Ala Thr Leu Leu Leu Val Leu	
-23 -20 -15 -10	

Asn Phe Glu Arg Thr Arg Ser Leu Gln Asp Pro Cys Ser Asn Cys Pro	
-5 1 5	

Ala Gly Thr Phe Cys Asp Asn Asn Arg Asn Gln Ile Cys Ser Pro Cys	
10 15 20 25	

Pro Pro Asn Ser Phe Ser Ser Ala Gly Gly Gln Arg Thr Cys Asp Ile	
30 35 40	

Cys Arg Gln Cys Lys Gly Val Phe Arg Thr Arg Lys Glu Cys Ser Ser	
45 50 55	

Thr Ser Asn Ala Glu Cys Asp Cys Thr Pro Gly Phe His Cys Leu Gly	
60 65 70	

Ala Gly Cys Ser Met Cys Glu Gln Asp Cys Lys Gln Gly Gln Glu Leu
 75 80 85

Thr Lys Lys Gly Cys Lys Asp Cys Cys Phe Gly Thr Phe Asn Asp Gln
 90 95 100 105

Lys Arg Gly Ile Cys Arg Pro Trp Thr Asn Cys Ser Leu Asp Gly Lys
 110 115 120

Ser Val Leu Val Asn Gly Thr Lys Glu Arg Asp Val Val Cys Gly Pro
 125 130 135

Ser Pro Ala Asp Leu Ser Pro Gly Ala Ser Ser Val Thr Pro Pro Ala
 140 145 150

Pro Ala Arg Glu Pro Gly His Ser Pro Gln Ile Ile Ser Phe Phe Leu
 155 160 165

Ala Leu Thr Ser Thr Ala Leu Leu Phe Leu Leu Phe Phe Leu Thr Leu
 170 175 180 185

Arg Phe Ser Val Val Lys Arg Gly Arg Lys Lys Leu Leu Tyr Ile Phe
 190 195 200

Lys Gln Pro Phe Met Arg Pro Val Gln Thr Thr Gln Glu Glu Asp Gly
 205 210 215

Cys Ser Cys Arg Phe Pro Glu Glu Glu Gly Gly Cys Glu Leu
 220 225 230

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 33 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

GTCACTAGTT CTGTGCAGAA CTCCTGTGAT AAC
 33

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

CACAAGATCT GGGCTCCTCT GGAGTCACAG AAATG
35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 31 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

CAGACTAGTT CACTCTGGAG TCACAGAAAT G
31

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

ATAGCGGCCG CTGCCAGATT TCATCATGGG AAAC
34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

ACAAGATCTG GGCTCCTGCG GAGAGTGTCC TGGCTCTCTC
40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 745 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:
 (B) CLONE: hIgG1Fc

(ix) FEATURE:
 (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 (B) LOCATION: 2..739

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

G	GTA	CCG	CTA	GCG	TCG	ACA	GGC	CTA	GGA	TAT	CGA	TAC	GTA	GAG	CCC	46
	Val	Pro	Leu	Ala	Ser	Thr	Gly	Leu	Gly	Tyr	Arg	Tyr	Val	Glu	Pro	
1								5					10		15	
AGA	TCT	TGT	GAC	AAA	ACT	CAC	ACA	TGC	CCA	CCG	TGC	CCA	GCA	CCT	GAA	94
Arg	Ser	Cys	Asp	Lys	Thr	His	Thr	Cys	Pro	Pro	Pro	Cys	Pro	Ala	Pro	Glu
								20					25		30	
CTC	CTG	GGG	GGA	CCG	TCA	GTC	TTC	CTC	TTC	CCC	CCA	AAA	CCC	AAG	GAC	142
Leu	Leu	Gly	Gly	Pro	Ser	Val	Phe	Leu	Phe	Pro	Pro	Lys	Pro	Lys	Asp	
								35					40		45	
ACC	CTC	ATG	ATC	TCC	CGG	ACC	CCT	GAG	GTC	ACA	TGC	GTG	GTG	GTG	GAC	190
Thr	Leu	Met	Ile	Ser	Arg	Thr	Pro	Glu	Val	Thr	Cys	Val	Val	Val	Asp	
								50					55		60	
GTG	AGC	CAC	GAA	GAC	CCT	GAG	GTC	AAG	TTC	AAC	TGG	TAC	GTG	GAC	GGC	238
Val	Ser	His	Glu	Asp	Pro	Glu	Val	Lys	Phe	Asn	Trp	Tyr	Val	Asp	Gly	
								65					70		75	
GTG	GAG	GTG	CAT	AAT	GCC	AAG	ACA	AAG	CCG	CGG	GAG	GAG	CAG	TAC	AAC	286
Val	Glu	Val	His	Asn	Ala	Lys	Thr	Lys	Pro	Arg	Glu	Glu	Gln	Tyr	Asn	
								80					85		90	95
AGC	ACG	TAC	CGG	GTG	GTC	AGC	GTC	CTC	ACC	GTC	CTG	CAC	CAG	GAC	TGG	334
Ser	Thr	Tyr	Arg	Val	Val	Ser	Val	Leu	Thr	Val	Leu	His	Gln	Asp	Trp	
								100					105		110	
CTG	AAT	GGC	AAG	GAC	TAC	AAG	TGC	AAG	GTC	TCC	AAC	AAA	GCC	CTC	CCA	382
Leu	Asn	Gly	Lys	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Cys	Lys	Val	Ser	Asn	Lys	Ala	Leu	Pro	
								115					120		125	
GCC	CCC	ATG	CAG	AAA	ACC	ATC	TCC	AAA	GCC	AAA	GGG	CAG	CCC	CGA	GAA	430
Ala	Pro	Met	Gln	Lys	Thr	Ile	Ser	Lys	Ala	Lys	Gly	Gln	Pro	Arg	Glu	
								130					135		140	

CCA CAG GTG TAC ACC CTG CCC CCA TCC CGG GAT GAG CTG ACC AAG AAC Pro Gln Val Tyr Thr Leu Pro Pro Ser Arg Asp Glu Leu Thr Lys Asn 145 150 155	478
CAG GTC AGC CTG ACC TGC CTG GTC AAA GGC TTC TAT CCC AGG CAC ATC Gln Val Ser Leu Thr Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Phe Tyr Pro Arg His Ile 160 165 170 175	526
GCC GTG GAG TGG GAG AGC AAT GGG CAG CCG GAG AAC AAC TAC AAG ACC Ala Val Glu Trp Glu Ser Asn Gly Gln Pro Glu Asn Asn Tyr Lys Thr 180 185 190	574
ACG CCT CCC GTG CTG GAC TCC GAC GGC TCC TTC TTC CTC TAC AGC AAG Thr Pro Pro Val Leu Asp Ser Asp Gly Ser Phe Phe Leu Tyr Ser Lys 195 200 205	622
CTC ACC GTG GAC AAG AGC AGG TGG CAG CAG GGG AAC GTC TTC TCA TGC Leu Thr Val Asp Lys Ser Arg Trp Gln Gln Gly Asn Val Phe Ser Cys 210 215 220	670
TCC GTG ATG CAT GAG GCT CTG CAC AAC CAC TAC ACG CAG AAG AGC CTC Ser Val Met His Glu Ala Leu His Asn His Tyr Thr Gln Lys Ser Leu 225 230 235	718
TCC CTG TCT CCG GGT AAA TGAACTAGT Ser Leu Ser Pro Gly Lys 240 245	745

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 245 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

Val Pro Leu Ala Ser Thr Gly Leu Gly Tyr Arg Tyr Val Glu Pro Arg 1 5 10 15	
Ser Cys Asp Lys Thr His Thr Cys Pro Pro Cys Pro Ala Pro Glu Leu 20 25 30	
Leu Gly Gly Pro Ser Val Phe Leu Phe Pro Pro Lys Pro Lys Asp Thr 35 40 45	
Leu Met Ile Ser Arg Thr Pro Glu Val Thr Cys Val Val Val Asp Val 50 55 60	
Ser His Glu Asp Pro Glu Val Lys Phe Asn Trp Tyr Val Asp Gly Val 65 70 75 80	
Glu Val His Asn Ala Lys Thr Lys Pro Arg Glu Glu Gln Tyr Asn Ser 85 90 95	

Thr Tyr Arg Val Val Ser Val Leu Thr Val Leu His Gln Asp Trp Leu
100 105 110

Asn Gly Lys Asp Tyr Lys Cys Lys Val Ser Asn Lys Ala Leu Pro Ala
115 120 125

Pro Met Gln Lys Thr Ile Ser Lys Ala Lys Gly Gln Pro Arg Glu Pro
130 135 140

Gln Val Tyr Thr Leu Pro Pro Ser Arg Asp Glu Leu Thr Lys Asn Gln
145 150 155 160

Val Ser Leu Thr Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Phe Tyr Pro Arg His Ile Ala
165 170 175

Val Glu Trp Glu Ser Asn Gly Gln Pro Glu Asn Asn Tyr Lys Thr Thr
180 185 190

Pro Pro Val Leu Asp Ser Asp Gly Ser Phe Phe Leu Tyr Ser Lys Leu
195 200 205

Thr Val Asp Lys Ser Arg Trp Gln Gln Gly Asn Val Phe Ser Cys Ser
210 215 220

Val Met His Glu Ala Leu His Asn His Tyr Thr Gln Lys Ser Leu Ser
225 230 235 240

Leu Ser Pro Gly Lys
245

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated DNA encoding a 4-1BB-L polypeptide, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 53-979 of the murine 4-1BB-L sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 4-765 of the human 4-1BB-L sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
2. An isolated DNA encoding a 4-1BB-L polypeptide, wherein said DNA is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence of claim 1.
3. An isolated DNA capable of hybridizing to a nucleotide sequence of claim 1 under moderately stringent conditions, wherein said DNA encodes a 4-1BB-L polypeptide capable of binding to 4-1BB.
4. An isolated DNA of claim 3, wherein said DNA encodes a soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptide.
5. An isolated DNA of claim 4, wherein said DNA additionally encodes an antibody Fc polypeptide fused to the C-terminus of said soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptide.
6. An isolated DNA of claim 4 wherein the soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptide is a soluble human 4-1BB-L polypeptide comprising amino acids 49-254 of SEQ ID NO:3.
7. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 1 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA in a host cell.
8. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 2 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA in a host cell.
9. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 3 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA in a host cell.
10. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 4 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA in a host cell.

11. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 5 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA in a host cell.
12. A process for preparing a 4-1BB-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 7 under conditions that promote expression of the 4-1BB-L polypeptide, and purifying the 4-1BB-L polypeptide.
13. A process for preparing a 4-1BB-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 8 under conditions that promote expression of the 4-1BB-L polypeptide, and purifying the 4-1BB-L polypeptide.
14. A process for preparing a 4-1BB-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 9 under conditions that promote expression of the 4-1BB-L polypeptide, and purifying the 4-1BB-L polypeptide.
15. A process for preparing a soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 10 under conditions that promote expression of the 4-1BB-L polypeptide, and purifying the 4-1BB-L polypeptide.
16. A process for preparing a soluble 4-1BB-L/Fc fusion protein, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 11 under conditions that promote expression of the 4-1BB-L/Fc fusion protein, and purifying said fusion protein.
17. A purified 4-1BB ligand polypeptide (4-1BB-L) comprising an N-terminal amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of Met-Glu-Tyr-Ala-Ser-Asp-Ala-Ser-Leu-Asp-Pro-Glu-, Leu-Ala-Cys-Pro-Trp-Ala-Val-Ser-Gly-Ala-Arg-Ala-Ser-, Met-Asp-Gln-His-Thr-Leu-Asp-Val-Glu-Asp-Thr-Ala-, Arg-Thr-Glu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Ala-Leu-Thr-Ile-Thr-Thr-, Thr-Glu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Ala-Leu-Thr-Ile-Thr-Thr-, and Glu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Ala-Leu-Thr-Ile-Thr-Thr-.
18. A purified 4-1BB-L according to claim 17, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids amino acids 1-254 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 49-254 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1-309 of SEQ ID NO:1, and amino acids x-309 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of 104, 105, and 106.

19. A purified 4-1BB-L according to claim 17, comprising an amino acid sequence that is identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids amino acids 1-254 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 49-254 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1-309 of SEQ ID NO:1, and amino acids x-309 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of 104, 105, and 106, except for conservative amino acid substitution(s).

20. A purified 4-1BB-L polypeptide wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a DNA selected from the group consisting of:

(a) DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 53-979 of the murine 4-1BB-L sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 4-765 of the human 4-1BB-L sequence of SEQ ID NO:3;

(b) DNA capable of hybridizing to a DNA of (a) under moderately stringent conditions and which encodes a 4-1BB-L capable of binding to a 4-1BB; and

(c) DNA which, due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, encodes a 4-1BB-L polypeptide encoded by a DNA of (a).

21. A purified 4-1BB-L of claim 20 wherein said 4-1BB-L is a soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptide.

22. A purified soluble 4-1BB-L of claim 21 which additionally comprises an antibody Fc polypeptide fused to the C-terminus of said soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptide.

23. A purified soluble human 4-1BB-L comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 49-254 of SEQ ID NO:4.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a soluble human 4-1BB-L of claim 21 in admixture with a suitable diluent, carrier, or excipient.

25. A dimer comprising two soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptides of claim 22, joined *via* disulfide bonds between the Fc polypeptides fused to said soluble 4-1BB-L polypeptides.

26. An antibody that is immunoreactive with a 4-1BB-L polypeptide of claim 20.

27. An antibody of claim 26, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

28. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least about 17 nucleotides of a DNA sequence according to claim 1 or its DNA or RNA complement.

29. An isolated DNA encoding a human 4-1BB polypeptide, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) nucleotides 120-884 of SEQ ID NO:7;
- b) nucleotides 189-884 of SEQ ID NO:7; and
- c) a nucleotide sequence that is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence of (a) or (b).

30. An isolated DNA encoding a soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises the extracellular domain of human 4-1BB (amino acids 1-163 of SEQ ID NO:7) or a fragment thereof capable of binding a 4-1BB-L.

31. An isolated DNA of claim 30, wherein said DNA additionally encodes an antibody Fc polypeptide fused to the C-terminus of said soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide.

32. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 29 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA sequence in a host cell.

33. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 30 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA sequence in a host cell.

34. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 31 operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of said DNA sequence in a host cell.

35. A process for preparing a human 4-1BB polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 32 under conditions that promote expression of the human 4-1BB polypeptide, and purifying said polypeptide.

36. A process for preparing a soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 33 under conditions that promote expression of the human 4-1BB polypeptide, and purifying said polypeptide.

37. A process for preparing a fusion protein comprising an antibody Fc polypeptide fused to the C-terminus of a soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide, comprising

culturing a host cell comprising a vector according to claim 34 under conditions that promote expression of the human fusion protein, and purifying said fusion protein.

38. A purified human 4-1BB polypeptide comprising the N-terminal amino acid sequence Leu-Gln-Asp-Pro-Cys-Ser-Asn-Cys-Pro-Ala-Gly-Thr-.

39. A purified 4-1BB according to claim 38, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-232 of SEQ ID NO:7 and amino acids 1-163 of SEQ ID NO:7.

40. A purified 4-1BB according to claim 38, comprising an amino acid sequence that is identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-232 of SEQ ID NO:7 and amino acids 1-163 of SEQ ID NO:7, except for conservative amino acid substitution(s).

41. A purified soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises the extracellular domain of human 4-1BB (amino acids 1-163 of SEQ ID NO:7) or a fragment thereof capable of binding a 4-1BB-L.

42. A purified soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide of claim 41, additionally comprising an antibody Fc polypeptide fused to the C-terminus of said human 4-1BB polypeptide.

43. A dimer comprising two soluble human 4-1BB polypeptides of claim 42, joined *via* disulfide bonds between the Fc polypeptides fused to said soluble 4-1BB polypeptides.

44. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a soluble human 4-1BB of claim 41 in admixture with a suitable diluent, carrier, or excipient.

45. An antibody that is immunoreactive with a human 4-1BB polypeptide of claim 38.

46. An antibody of claim 45, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

47. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least about 17 nucleotides of a DNA sequence according to claim 29 or its DNA or RNA complement.

Inhibition of *mu41BB.Fc Binding to EL4 6.1

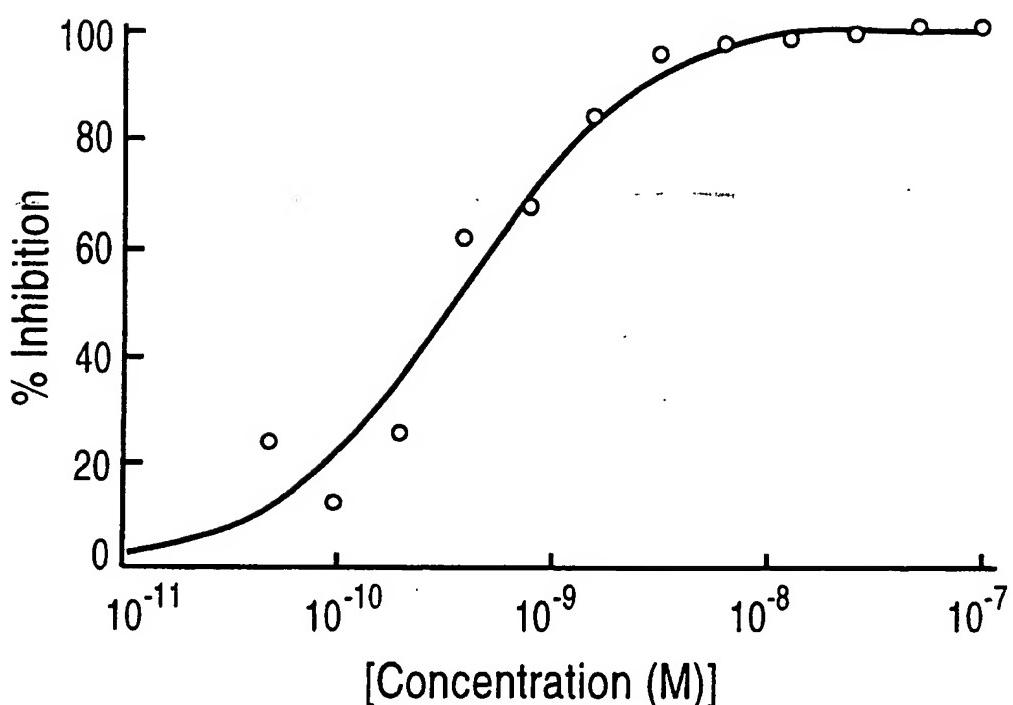


Figure 1

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Inhibition of *mu41BB.Fc Binding to EL4 6.1

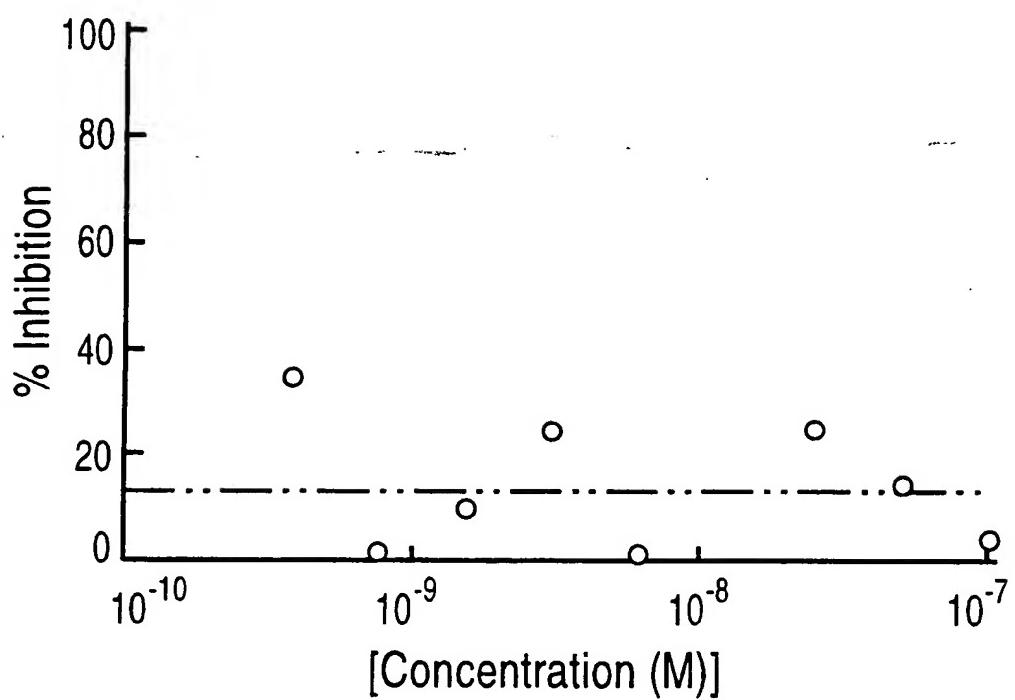


Figure 2

2/4

Inhibition of *mu41BB.Fc Binding to EL4 6.1

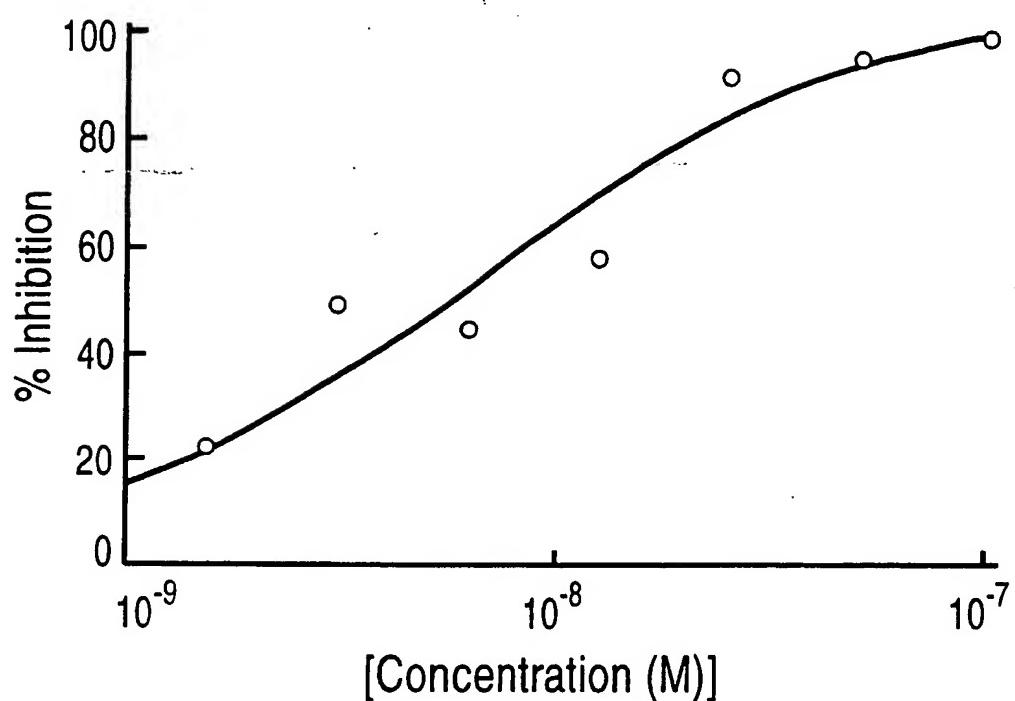
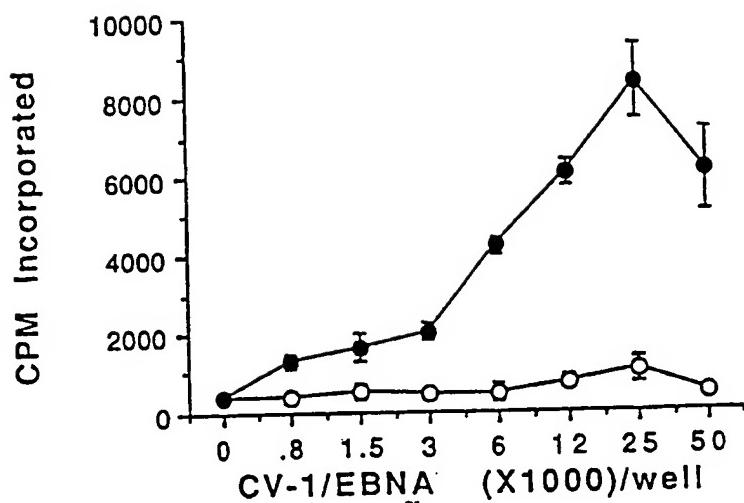


Figure 3

FIGURE 4



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US94/05036

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) : A61K 37/02; C07K 13/00, 15/00; C12N 15/12, 15/63; C12P 21/00

US CL : 435/69.1, 320.1; 514/12; 530/350, 387.1; 536/23.5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/69.1, 320.1; 514/12; 530/350, 387.1; 536/23.5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, Dialog
search terms: 4-1BB, 4-1BBL, ligand, receptor, bind, affinity**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	European Journal of Immunology, Vol. 23, issued 1993, Goodwin et al., "Molecular cloning of a ligand for the inducible T cell gene 4-1BB: a member of an emerging family of cytokines with homology to tumor necrosis factor", pages 2631-2641, see the entire document.	1-28
X	The EMBO Journal, Vol. 11, No. 12, issued 1992, Hollenbaugh et al., "The human T cell antigen gp39, a member of the TNF gene family, is a ligand for the CD40 receptor: expression of a soluble form of gp39 with B cell co-stimulatory activity", pages 4313-4321, see the entire document.	12-16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

• Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 JULY 1994

Date of mailing of the international search report

02 AUG 1994

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Eric Grimes

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US94/05036

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Gene, Vol. 134, issued 1993, Schwarz et al., "A receptor induced by lymphocyte activation (ILA): a new member of the human nerve-growth-factor/tumor-necrosis-factor receptor family", pages 295-298, see page 296.	29-36, 47
X	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Vol. 86, issued March 1989, Kwon et al., "cDNA sequences of two inducible T-cell genes", pages 1963-1967, see the entire document.	29-36, 47
Y	Nature, Vol. 357, issued 07 May 1992, Armitage et al., "Molecular and biological characterization of a murine ligand for CD40", pages 80-82, see the entire document.	38-46
Y	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Vol. 89, issued November 1992, Chalupny et al., "T-cell activation molecule 4-1BB binds to extracellular matrix proteins", pages 10360-10364, see the entire document.	1-28, 37-46
Y	Journal of Immunology, Vol. 150, No. 3, issued 01 February 1993, Pollok et al., "Inducible T cell antigen 4-1BB: analysis of expression and function", pages 771-781, see the entire document.	1-28, 37-46